THE NEW
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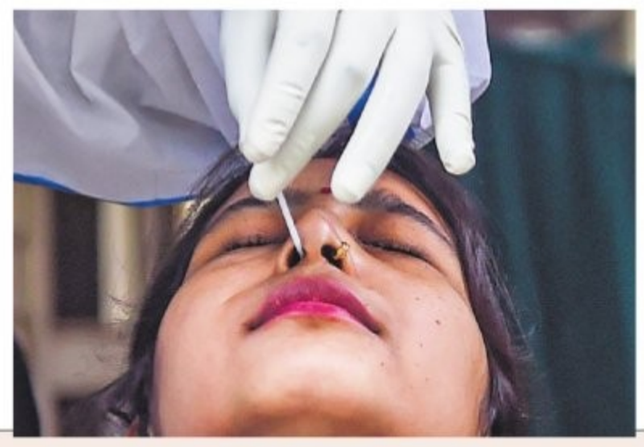

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DAILY COVID TEST CAPACITY TO REACH 20L BY MONTH-END

Thursday's announcement came after a home-based rapid antigen testing (RAT) kit by a Pune firm was given the nod

HOME TEST KITS TO BE AVAILABLE IN 3-4 DAYS

Stating that the kits would be on the market in 3-4 days, ICMR director general Balram Bhargava said three more firms would soon get the approval. India has reached 16-20 lakh daily test capacity as on Thursday. It would be ramped up to 20 lakh by the month-end and scaled up to 45 lakh by July. A record 20.55 lakh tests were conducted in the past 24 hours

RESULTS DELIVERED TO YOUR PHONE

- For home testing, one must buy a kit from a chemist's, download a mobile app, register and conduct the test as per the manual
- After the test, click a photo of the report, upload it to the app and get the result on your phone. This will ensure confidentiality
- The results will be stored on a server linked with ICMR database

105

KIT COMPANIES VALIDATED BY THE ICMR SO FAR, 41 APPROVED

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

NEW UNIT TO MAKE 20-CR VAX DOSES

New Delhi: Bharat Biotech on Thursday announced its plan to rope in its wholly-owned subsidiary Chiron Behring to ramp up production of Covaxin by an additional 20 crore doses per year. This will effectively take the volume of Covaxin to nearly 1 billion doses per annum. As of now, Bharat Biotech manufactures 1.5 crore doses per month, which is likely to go up to 4-5 crore doses per month by July. It said that Covaxin produced at Chiron Behring's Gujarat facility could be available by September

Doctors performing a diagnostic nasal endoscopy on a patient to detect black fungus at a hospital in Hyderabad on Thursday | PTI

Amid spurt in black fungus cases, crucial drug out of stock

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

THERE has been an "exponential" increase in cases of Covid-Associated Mucormycosis (CAM), or black fungus, in Bengaluru over the last 10 days, but the all-important anti-fungal drug Liposomal Amphotericin or Amphotericin-B has surprisingly gone out of stock!

In its absence, some hospitals are either using other alternative drugs, which may not be as effective as Amphotericin-B or are using plain Amphotericin, which is nephro-toxic and has the potential to damage kidneys.

Some private hospitals, which have operated upon CAM patients are frantically looking for Amphotericin-B and even calling government and government hospitals for some vials. "Amphotericin-B was easily available in the market till recently. It is not available now," said Medical Director of Sri Bhagwan Mahaveer Jain Hospital, MD Marker. "There is an increase in CAM cases and we urgently require Amphotericin-B," he added.

"Liposomal Amphotericin enables us to use higher doses without the toxicity associated with plain Amphotericin. Higher doses ensure better and quicker eradication of the fungus. Unfortunately, the supply of Amphotericin-B is inadequate, given the current demand. The only option left is to improve immunity with better control of diabetes and removal of dead tissue from the nose and sinuses to lower the fungal load and use second line drugs like Posaconazole or Isavuconazole. This has to be done at the earliest to prevent the spread to the eyes, resulting in loss of vision, and spread to the brain, which can result in loss of life," said Dr E V Raman, consultant ENT specialist, Manipal Hospital, Old Airport Road.

Dr Athira Ramakrishnan, consultant ENT specialist, Fortis Hospital, Bannerghatta Road, also admitted that there was a "shortage of Amphotericin-B due to the sudden surge in the number of cases." CONTINUED ON: P4

KARNATAKA	MAY 19	MAY 20
Fresh cases	34,281	28,869
Recoveries	49,953	52,257
Deaths	468	548

SOS FOR DRUG BUT VOLUME LOW; NEED TO SCALE UP IMPORT

The Centre asks states to notify mucormycosis or black fungus under the Epidemic Act

Black fungus has already killed 90 in Maharashtra, where 1,500 such cases have been detected; 850 are under treatment in hospitals

Maharashtra tells PM it needs 1.50-2 lakh vials of Amphotericin B to treat the fungus, but has received only 16,000 from the Centre so far

Six Indian firms are manufacturing Amphotericin B. Five more companies have approval to produce it

Some companies have so far placed orders to import 5-6 lakh vials of the shot

"You have to get the medicine from wherever in the world. You have to take steps right now," Delhi HC tells Centre

Borrowing trends

Break-up of loans across categories

	Mar 2020	Mar 2021	Growth 2021 (%)
CONSUMER DURABLES	₹9,299 Cr	₹7,307 Cr	-21.4%
HOUSING LOANS	₹13,37,899 Cr	₹14,59,066 Cr	9.1%
ADVANCE AGAINST FIXED DEPOSITS	₹79,494 Cr	₹71,544 Cr	-10.0%
ADVANCES TO INDIVIDUALS AGAINST SHARE & BONDS	₹5,334 Cr	₹4,570 Cr	-14.3%
CREDIT CARD OUTSTANDING	₹1,08,097 Cr	₹1,16,537 Cr	7.8%
EDUCATION LOANS	₹65,744 Cr	₹63,805 Cr	-3.0%
VEHICLE LOANS	₹2,20,610 Cr	₹2,41,657 Cr	9.5%
LOAN AGAINST GOLD JEWELLERY	₹33,303 Cr	₹60,464 Cr	81.6%
OTHER PERSONAL LOANS	₹6,93,870 Cr	₹7,88,564 Cr	13.6%
TOTAL	₹25,53,650 Cr	₹28,13,514 Cr	10.2%

Gold pledging on the rise as stress hits households

Reserve Bank data show people are increasingly turning to gold and personal loans to meet basic expenditure and medical emergencies

ANURADHA SHUKLA @ New Delhi

WITH businesses shut, jobs lost and salaries slashed, many people are emptying their household gold savings to borrow money to meet their essential expenditure as well as emerge medical requirements, show official data from the Reserve Bank of India.

According to the latest RBI data, loans against gold have jumped a whopping 82% since March 2020. At the same time, consumer durables and education loans are down by 21.4% and 3%, respectively, showing how people affected by the economic stress induced by the coronavirus pandemic are prioritising their spending.

The outstanding loans against gold went up from ₹33,303 crore in March 2020 to ₹60,464 crore in March this year, pushing the overall personal loan portfolio of financial institutions up by 10.02%.

One of the main reasons for the spike in gold loan is the increase in emergency spending due to the second Covid wave, loss of income, and reluctance of banks to give insecure personal loans, forcing people to use their household gold to get money.

According to bankers, the trend is likely to continue. "The surge in gold loans is likely to go up further. While demand for gold loan was already high even last year, we saw fresh demand from April onwards. One out of every three loan queries is about gold loan. In fact, low income and lack of collateral have directed many people to opt for that," said a senior official with State Bank of India.

Getting personal loans has also become tough with banks becoming more cautious about unsecured loans. So, people who have lost job and still have monthly instalment to pay, are using gold jewellery as the last resort to get further loan.

"The rejection rate is going high for personal loan criteria. We have been asked to go for additional KYCs including salary slips, and asking for collaterals including stocks and other assets. The management is very careful, considering the fear of high NPA," an executive with ICICI Bank said.

The central bank had already warned that the direct fallout of the Covid will be on public spending. Data from the RBI reveals that loan for consumer durables was down 21.4% as loan outstanding was ₹7,307 crore in March 2021 against ₹9,299 crore in March 2020. Education loan outstanding was also down by ₹65,744 crore to ₹63,805 crore.

₹2 lakh interim relief for families of Chamarajanagar O_2 tragedy: Govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE State Government on Thursday informed the Karnataka High Court that it has decided to give Rs 2 lakh as interim compensation to each of the families of the 24 victims who died due to shortage of oxygen at the Chamarajanagar District Hospital earlier this month.

Recording the submission made by Advocate General Prabhuling K Navadagi, a special division bench of Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka and Justice Aravind Kumar directed the government to make the payments immediately to the families. On the directions of the high court, a committee headed by former high court judge, Justice A N Venugopala Gowda, constituted by the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority, had submitted a report confirming the deaths due to shortage of oxygen. Attributing the tragedy to the callousness of the district administration and district health authorities, the committee had also recommended compensation to the families of the victims.

Taking note of the committee recommendations, the court had directed the government to make its stand known on payment of compensation. Accordingly, the Advocate General conveyed the decision of the government to the court.

The court orally observed that whatever compensation the government has planned to pay, should be made immediately and added that for now, they will not go into whether it is adequate. Also, the court said that at a later stage, it will look into the issue of more death of patients, when the counsel for the petitioners submitted that the actual number of death of patients is more than 24. To this, the Advocate General pointed out that the actual number of deaths were 24 as per the committee report.

HC slams U'khand govt for massing at Char Dham

VINEET UPADHYAY @ Dehradun

THE Uttarakhand High Court on Thursday hauled the state government over the coals after perusing videos of priests massing at the Char Dhaam sites without following Covid protocol. Citing the aftereffects of the Maha Kumbh, a bench comprising Chief Justice RS Chauhan and Justice A K Verma asked why there was no crowd control mechanism in place and wondered why the administration had not learnt from its mistakes.

"First we make the mistake of Kumbh Mela, then there is Char Dham. Why do we repeatedly cause embarrassment to ourselves?" the Chief Justice asked. "In Kedarnath & Badrinath temples, I have seen videos that social distancing is not being followed by the priests. Even if deity is being worshipped, you can't let 23 priests enter the temple. Who is the person appointed by the state to monitor this?" the court questioned. When state tourism secretary Dilip Jawalkar told the bench that they had issued guidelines for rituals, the court said videos of crowded sancta sanctorum suggested that none was following them.

While the yatra remains suspended this year, rituals at the shrines have been allowed. However, pilgrims are barred.

Daily death audit in villages to curb mortality

CHETANA BELAGERE @ Bengaluru

WITH the huge increase in the number of deaths related to Covid-19 in smaller towns and villages, the State Government has decided to conduct a death audit on a daily basis in each district with the help of an expert committee. The decision was taken at a recent meeting of the Chief Minister with district Deputy Commissioners and members of the Technical Advisory Committee on Covid-19.

"Auditing the deaths on a daily basis will help in understanding why they occurred and the report will be used to fill the gaps and prevent future deaths of Covid 19. The report will also be submitted to the state," an order from the Chief Secretary to the DCs said.

Meanwhile, experts from TAC say that there has been a delay in patients reporting to hospitals, which seems to be the main reason for the increase in the number of deaths and also the surge as it is being seen that patients are not getting tested and isolating themselves on the onset of symptoms.

"We have noticed that there has been a delay in reporting to hospitals. Also, it is important to understand if a patient's death was also due to nonavailability of ICU care, oxygen beds, etc. This is important for the state to prepare for the third wave," said Dr C N Manjunath, Director, Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Research and member of the TAC. P7

A family member waits to perform the last rites of a Covid victim at the Chamarajpet crematorium in Bengaluru on Thursday | SHRIRAM BN

ACROSS THE STATE

5,34,954 TOTAL ACTIVES CASES

1,15,08,005 TOTAL VACCINATIONS

1,20,711 SAMPLES TESTED ON THURSDAY

- The vaccination drive for the 18-44 age category, which was suspended earlier, will restart for priority groups on Saturday
- With **548** deaths on Thursday, the mortality rate in the state saw a marginal increase from 1.01 per cent to **1.02** per cent
- Davangere and Kolar districts will be under total lockdown for three days till May 24
- A Mega Oxygen Generator with a capacity to produce **500** LPM has started production on a trial basis in Yadgir on Wednesday

Mamata rages over PM's meeting, BJP gives it back

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata/New Delhi

LAUNCHING a blistering attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi for first time since she came to power for the straight third term, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee described his online meeting with district magistrates (DMs) on the Covid situation on Thursday as a 'super flop' event that 'humiliated' the participant CMs as none of them was allowed to speak.

The BJP swiftly gave it back, saying her behaviour was not appropriate and against team spirit. Mamata allegedly interrupted when the turn of 24 Parganas DM came during the event. The district has been reporting a high Covid caseload.

"The kind of behaviour shown by her wasn't desirable," Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said. The sharp rift surfaced at a time when the CBI has arrested three TMC MLAs, including two ministers.

"None of the CMs was allowed to speak for a second. Armed with documents, we were prepared to place our demands. All the CMs were sitting like puppet. We are not bonded labourers. We, the CMs, felt humiliated and insulted. It was a casual and super flop meeting," Mamata raged.

UNITED FIGHT

With self regulation, Katur-Ichanagi villages have stayed Covid-free

K SHIVA KUMAR @ Mysuru

At a time when the test positivity rate is hovering over 55 per cent and the death count rising in the rural parts of Mysuru district, two neighbouring villages in Haradanahalli Panchayat limits of Nanjangud taluk have shown the way in the fight against the pandemic. Having steadfastly followed Covid-appropriate behaviour and other regulations imposed by the village heads, Katur and Uchagani, with a total population of about 2,000, have not reported a single case of Covid-19 both during the first and second waves.

Happy that not a single case was reported during the first wave that started in March last year, the villagers had planned a grand festival of Goddess Maramma (Mari habba) by sacrificing sheep to the deity for protecting them from the virus. But, with the second wave sweeping through the rural areas too, they postponed the ritual and are now focusing on protecting the children from a possible third wave.

Village panchayat member Shivamma explained that she has made it a point to ensure a hygienic atmosphere, good sanitation and compulsory fumigation three days in a week. CONTINUED ON: P7

A farmer tills his land wearing a mask at Kaatur village in Mysuru district | EXPRESS

NATIONWIDE	MAY 19	MAY 20
Fresh cases	2,67,334	2,76,110
Recoveries	3,89,851	3,69,077
Deaths	4,529	3,874

JAB-O-METER TAKE YOUR SHOT

May 19 **11,45,569 doses**

May 20 **14,56,088 doses**

TOTAL DOSES: 19,18,10,604

EXPRESS READ

Stricter curbs on the cards, say ministers

Bengaluru: With rural areas in Karnataka still witnessing a surge in Covid cases and many districts under a complete lockdown, Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Revenue Minister R Ashoka said that in the coming days, the restrictions will be enforced more strictly and the government is planning stringent measures. P5

Doc among 2 women held for illegal vaccination

Bengaluru: Two women, including a doctor, were arrested on Thursday for allegedly running an illegal vaccination racket at ITI Layout in the city. P7

WITH THIS ISSUE

CITY'S BEST WEEKEND GUIDE INDULGE — 30 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF INDULGE (TABLOID)

ALMANAC TODAY
Friday: 21/05/2021 • Year: Plava • Ayana: Uttharayana
Ritu: Vasantha • Masa: Vaishala • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Dashami 4.11 am
Nakshatra: Purva Phalguni 10.38 am • Moon in Kanya Rashi • Rahukaala: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
Gulikakala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am Yamaganda: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 22°C | MAX 29°C
FORECAST: Showery. Overcast

Sunrise 5.53 am
Sunset 6.39 pm
Moonrise 1.46 pm
Moonset 1.40 am

Housing project for urban poor on track

Cabinet approved project in September 2017, Housing Minister V Somanna sets 2022 deadline

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

WHILE several projects of the State Government have come to a grinding halt due to Covid-19, its ambitious project to build one lakh houses for Bengaluru's poor is on track.

The government aims to complete the project by 2022 — the deadline set by Housing Minister V Somanna.

In September 2017, the State Cabinet had approved construction of one lakh houses for the economically weaker sections, on government land cleared of encroachment. In 2018, the State Government called for tenders to construct the ground-plus-three-floor structures on 1,500 acres of land. Acquiring the required land proved to be a Herculean task for the authorities due to a land crunch in the city.

The project, however, has now gained momentum. According to a senior official of the Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited, most of the encroachments have been cleared and construction of 46,499 houses under Phase I has commenced at 46 locations in the city. The State Government has so far identified 48,615 beneficiaries.

While 200 houses are being constructed at a few sites, more than 10,000 are being built on larger sites. All the houses are high-rise buildings starting from ground-plus-three floors. Tender process is on for the remaining houses.

The official said that the workforce varies between 300 and 2,000 on each site, depending on the size of the project.

"We are facing several hurdles like delay in getting construction material, workers getting Covid etc. We are testing them every fortnight and also when they show Covid symptoms. We isolate them if they show symptoms. To expedite the project, workers are working in 2-3 shifts. When there are more people in isolation, we reduce the shifts," the official added.

Of the 46,499 houses being built, 8,000 are 2 BHK and the remaining are 1 BHK units. While the 2 BHK houses will be auctioned, the cost of one 1 BHK house is Rs 10.6 lakh and for SCs/STs beneficiaries, Rs 3.7 lakh will be given by the government (Union and State governments) and for General category, Rs 2.8 lakh will be provided.

Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa had recently met bankers and told them to provide loans to all the beneficiaries.

Bengaluru Metro Managing Director Rakesh Singh takes the metro to inspect the Mysuru Road-Kengeri Line on Thursday | EXPRESS

Mysuru Road-Kengeri Line launch postponed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN light of the pandemic and the resultant labour shortage, the launch of the second line of Metro Phase-II between Mysuru Road and Kengeri has been postponed by a month to July. This marks a series of postponements for the Line, originally set for Rajyotsava Day last year with July 20 being the latest deadline.

After inspecting the Kengeri station on this line on Thursday morning, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) Managing Director Rakesh Singh told TNIE, "The lockdown in the city as well as the shortage of labour by 40% during the last two months has caused some delay. We are planning to open the line by July provided the severity of the pandemic wanes."

From a workforce of 8,000, BMRCL had only around 3,500 workers carrying out various tasks, the MD said. "It is not just because of workers down with Covid, many are unwilling to risk themselves by reporting for work in this time," he added.

Earlier, the MD told reporters that the line works had been completed and trial runs too were over. "Almost 90 to 95 per cent of the work has been completed in five stations, while 75% work has been completed in one station. Anywhere between June 15 and 20, all works will be completed. We will then apply to the Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety," he said.

Referring to the Covid Care Centre opened by BMRCL recently, Singh said that 80 people have so far been admitted in this 100-bed hospital. "Of them 18 have been discharged. The Centre is open to employees working on the Suburban Rail project too," he said.

Fix Dodda Aaladamara Road, urge residents

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

NUMEROUS appeals by residents of Chikkanayakanahalli to various authorities on the non-motorable Dodda Aaladamara Road, off Sarjapura Road, has not fetched any results. With residential projects mushrooming in the area over the past three years, riding on the road has become a nightmare, made worse by rainfall.

In a letter written recently to Rajneesh Goel, Additional Chief Secretary in the Public Works Department, the residents have appealed for a new road with proper drainage system. "Residential projects like AHAD Excellencia, Manna Tropicale, Mahaveer Orchids, Astro Green, Assetz, Adarsh Sanctuary, etc have come up in the last three years. There are many educational institutions like Notredame, DPS, Primus, Prakriya, Harvest, Amrita International, Vruksha Schools in the vicinity, and students need to use this road for daily commute," it said.

The letter was also sent to Govind Karjol, Deputy Chief Minister & PWD Minister, MP DK Suresh, and Anekal MLA B Shivanna among others.

Nitin Kumar, who is part of an informal group of residents of Choodasandra and Chikkanayakanahalli, told TNIE, "Residents need to use Dodda Aladamara Road to travel to Hosa Road or Sarjapur Road. It is completely non-motorable and we have made many appeals for it to be set right."

The Dodda Aaladamara Road is in a bad condition | EXPRESS

Mithilesh Kumar, data scientist in an IT firm and resident of a prestigious apartment here says, "My car bumper got damaged many times due to the state of the road. It is very dangerous for two-wheelers and two-wheelers, particularly when it rains." He also said that he once saw a lady fall into a ditch along the road, with her two-wheeler.

BBMP chief takes stock of rain-readiness

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

BBMP Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta on Thursday took stock of flood-prone areas of the city, with the monsoon likely to hit the city in a fortnight.

Gupta, along with Chief Engineer (storm water drain) Prahlad, head of engineering division Siddegowda and other BBMP officials visited areas which flood every monsoon. They inspected the Vrishabhavathi storm water drain, which overflows every year, causing water to enter the Gali Anjaneya temple and surrounding houses, and said measures will be taken to ensure that a similar situation doesn't arise this year.

BBMP cleaned the storm water drain to ensure free flow of water. Gupta inspected the spot and the engineering section told the commissioner that there are two to three storm water drains which join the major drain, and result in clogging. However, after cleaning, water can flow easily.

On noticing that houses are built illegally on adjoining walls of the drain, he instructed engineers to demolish the structures immediately. Further, walls were built to ensure that water doesn't gush out of the drain on to the roads.

Inspecting Banashankari Ring Road, the engineers said that Bridge Road needs to be elevated to make sure the area doesn't get flooded.

Last year, with heavy rain in November, Dattatreya Layout areas were inundated after a wall collapsed. Now, RCC walls have been installed. With some work pending, the commissioner has asked officials to expedite action on priority.

Gupta then inspected the storm water drain near JC Road and said that buildings on both sides of the drain needed to be demolished immediately. He asked officials to take appropriate action.

Cancer survivor beats Covid, asks people to get treated in time

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

BINDU D wonders if surviving cancer was a bigger challenge or Covid-19. Her family had tested positive on April 20. After beating the virus, they now tell everyone that timely and most importantly, right treatment was vital.

Speaking to TNIE, she said that she thanks her stars and all those who helped her. "My father (80) started showing symptoms on April 17 and I developed a cough on April 19. My mother (76), father, son (23) and I decided to get tested. We went to a lab in the afternoon but were told to come back in the evening due to the rush. My parents were getting tired so we decided to schedule a test at home. When the RT-PCR reports came on April 23 and 24, we found we were all positive. My father's BU number first came at 12 am. We received calls from BBMP and many others, each of them asking the same questions again and again," she said.

On April 24, her father's oxygen level started to drop. "The doctor we consulted asked us to take paracetamol and take BBMP's help. With great difficulty we found a bed. His CT scan showed he had pneumonia but due to his age and apprehensions, he refused to go to a hospital. We had no other option but to make arrangements to get an oxygen cylinder at home. To my surprise, people whom I did not know but my brother did, helped us," the resident of Mathikere said.

After tele-consultations with doctors and help from citizens, Bindu purchased a 40-litre and a 10-litre oxygen tank at Rs 40,000. However, the family did not know how to use them. Thankfully, an ambulance driver and an attendant from a hospital came to their aid, helping them procure a regulator and fixing the cylinder. She recalls how many came forward to help while many did not.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

21st May: We're well into a new lunar cycle, still a time for new starts and fresh beginnings. By the way, the ebb and flow of the Moon was a magical moment in ancient societies. When it disappears at the New Moon, it was believed that Ishtar, the Babylonian Queen of Heaven, descended to the Underworld. When light returned to the sky she was re-born and life began again!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Soothing is not quite right in your business or financial life, but losses or mysteries are temporary. The best advice in this, and similar matters, is never to jump to conclusions, but always to go back and check that you have got your facts straight.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
From your current planetary picture it is clear that there are genuine and well-founded hopes of an increase in earnings, probably as a result of a great deal of thankless effort you put in the past. Don't expect the heavens to open and shower you with good luck. The world doesn't work like that, so make your own fabulous fortune!

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You must keep other people sweet, for you never know when you might need them. Actually, social confidence should be one of your gifts at the moment and it is also exactly what partners require, for if they are to be truthful they will admit that they've not been as happy as they could have been.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Feelings are funny things - as you know only too well. There are certain times of the month when you should feel free to be overwhelmed by emotion without explaining yourself or justifying your actions. This is one such moment. If partners do demand reasons, answer them in riddles!

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Your personal affairs should be more important than professional commitments. Even if you are absolutely forced to go to work or clear up after other people, you should see to it that life reflects what you want rather than what society dictates - within reason, of course!

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
This is one of those days when you might well receive significant news from the past. Some people think it is bad to have one's opinions and actions shaped by what happened long ago, but right now this is probably necessary. After all, the past is ever present!

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Self-confidence is your most important quality at the moment. Any bright idea at work is likely to bring the money rolling in, probably in quite unexpected ways, any time over the next three months. It's difficult to make firm plans, but that's as true for partners as for you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Conflicts, criticism and pressures at work or in public matters will soon ease, but only after there have been several other major developments. What seems to be exceptionally powerful at the moment is a sense that cash rewards are more important than gratitude. Oh, and an employer should put their money where their mouth is!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
If it pleases you, keep something very important to yourself. There is no reason at all why you shouldn't have your secrets. In love you should still allow partners to take the initiative, partly because it really looks as if they have some of the best ideas.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
You won't lose face now if you seek support over private affairs. In fact, you should be relieved when partners show themselves capable of looking at the facts, rather than taking a personal and emotional stand. You see, your feelings might make sense to you, but not to others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Have a last emotional stab at a particular professional venture. If you're involved in a community enterprise, you must realise that others will not share your beliefs. In love, enjoy any opportunity to be thoroughly sloppy and sentimental - and to indulge your desires.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
It is a fact that other people provide a very useful anchor by which you attach yourself to the 'real' world. So, do yourself a favour and find suitable allies today, but realise that the lure of foreign parts is still strong. You must do something to satisfy your adventurous yearnings!

THE PHANTOM

WHEN I SEE THE TRUSTED MAN, I WILL SMOTHER HIM WITH MY KISSES!
HE DID MENTION ONCE THAT GOOD FORTUNE FOLLOWS HIM EVERYWHERE....
THANK YOU FOR TELLING ME YOUR GOOD NEWS, ELENA....
MY BEST TO ERNESTO....
GOODBYE.

HI AND LOIS

I WANT TO GET A TATTOO.
I HAD A FRIEND WHO TATTOOED HIS GIRLFRIEND'S NAME AND THEN THEY BROKE UP.
I WANT ONE OF MY FAVORITE BAND.
THEY'LL BREAK UP, TOO.

BEETLE BAILEY

I'M MAD AS HELL AND I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE IT ANYMORE!!
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO YELL THAT OUT THE WINDOW ?
I'M TOO MAD TO GET OUT OF BED
GREG + MORT WALKER

BLONDIE

BY THE WAY, I HAVE GOOD INTENTIONS OF CLEANING OUT THE GARAGE TODAY
OH, THAT'S GOOD NEWS, DEAR
IT'S GETTING LATE! SHOULDN'T YOU GET STARTED?
ISN'T IT ENOUGH THAT I HAVE GOOD INTENTIONS?

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE

SUDOKU

Easy: Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

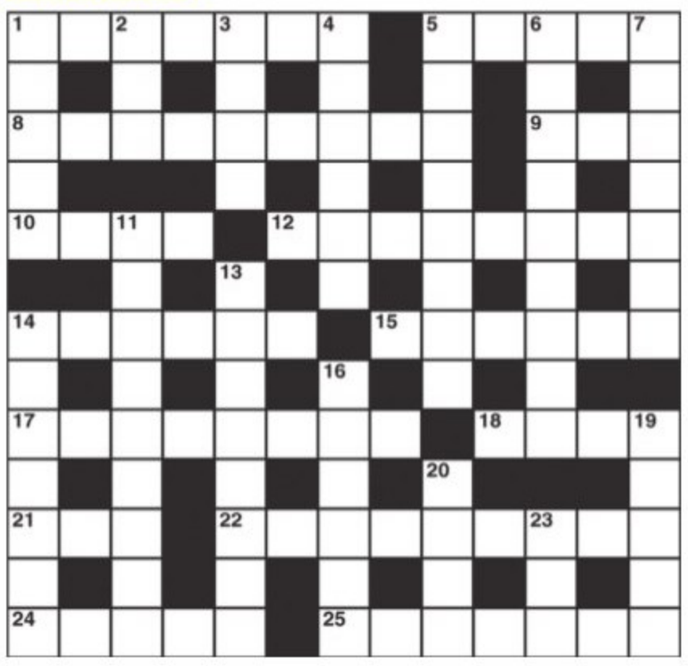
Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

2			1				9	6
	8	9			6			
7		6		9		8	4	
	2					5	6	7
1		5				9		8
9	6	7					1	
	9	8		4		6		1
			5			3	8	
6	3				1			9

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

6	9	3	7	2	8	4	5	1
5	1	8	4	6	9	2	3	7
2	4	7	1	5	3	8	6	9
4	5	9	2	8	7	3	1	6
8	2	1	5	3	6	9	7	4
7	3	6	9	1	4	5	8	2
1	6	2	8	9	5	7	4	3
9	8	4	3	7	1	6	2	5
3	7	5	6	4	2	1	9	8

CROSS WORD



ACROSS
1 Apprehensive over bursting into sunset (7)
5 Badly cared for tree (5)
8 Retired - from the bank? (9)
9 End with a bit of advice (3)
10 A bit of a listener (4)
12 Main line terminals? (8)
14 Sign for the thesaurus he's left (6)
15 Old oil vessel in which I go for a sail (6)
17 Confuse by suggesting that one should be less calm (8)
18 Quite a lot of business (4)
21 Leaves note attached to article (3)
22 Performance for which ten men act in parts (9)
24 Relation of pleasant oriental content (5)
25 Scholar returns maths work on time (7)

DOWN
1 Sounds like a strange letter in the post (5)
2 Rising pitch of squealer (3)
3 Uneven chances (4)
4 Miss Kate did it in winter it appears (6)
5 Plan to study a piece of church architecture (8)
6 Resolve to discourage an excavation (9)
7 A quick reply showing wit or spite perhaps (7)
11 The world's greatest swimmer (4,5)
13 Where Sagittarius strikes gold (5-3)
14 He comes from man's highest state (7)
16 Tell a story about Tralee (6)
19 Water lily collection going to America (5)
20 Turn up before it erupts (4)
23 Wooden core in steel mast (3)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Interval, 5 Opus, 9 Minim, 10 Tweaked, 11 Francis Drake, 13 Roller, 14 Inside, 17 Selling plate, 20 Memento, 21 Genie, 22 Nose, 23 Leathery.

Down: 1 Lamb, 2 Tendril, 3 Roman legions, 4 Attain, 6 Pukka, 7 Saddened, 8 Leading light, 12 Pressmen, 15 Intense, 16 Ignore, 18 Limbs, 19 Rely.

JUMBLE By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FLICF

LENTK

BEELMM

DSUNED

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Does he have a million bones connecting his head?
No. Mammals have the same number of vertebrae. I'll have to get back to you about how many.
SHE FORGOT THAT GIRAFFES HAVE SEVEN VERTEBRAE, BUT SHE'D TRY TO REMEMBER ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

Answer here:

" ○○○○○○ " ○○○○○

ANSWERS TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S: **Jumbles:**
FRISK COACH COTTON WICKET
ANSWER: She had a lot to do while waiting for her train, so she turned a tabl into a – WORKSTATION

COVID TRIAGE CENTRES

A one stop place for Covid-19 screening, consultation and care

BBMP has setup **48 triage centres across Bengaluru.** Now the patients can directly walk-in for covid screening and immediate medical attention.

Sri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Sri B.S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Dear citizens of Bengaluru,

- 48 Triage centres have been opened in the city
- The centres have a total of **2758** beds, with **1690** general and **1068** oxygen support beds.
- At the Physical Triage Centres (PTC), a team of doctors and nurses will be available 24/7
- Direct walk-in by patients is allowed
- Medical staff at PTC will assess the patients and recommend home isolation/covid care centre admission/hospitalisation based on clinical condition
- Asymptomatic patients are permitted to stay at the attached covid care centre
- If patients are symptomatic and oxygen level is below 90%, they would be triaged and referred to hospital

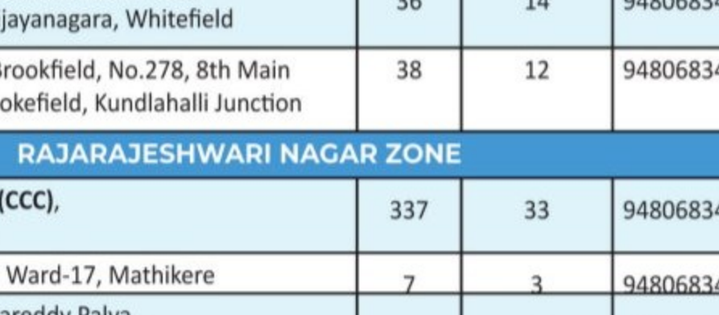
BBMP Zone wise Functional Triage Centres

Sl No	Name of the Triage Centre and Address	Regular beds	Oxygenated beds	BBMP's 24/7 Hotline No.
EAST ZONE				
1	**Mangala Raitha Bhavan,** Veterinary college campus, Opp. CBI office, Hebbal Main Road	3	52	9480683430
2	**Dr. B R Ambedkar Medical College (Sarvagnanagar)** Shampura Main Road, KG Halli	0	100	9480683432
3	**Shantinagar Maternity Home** Near Nanjappa circle, Shanthinagar	0	12	9480683435
4	**Government Boys Arts College,** Shanthinagar Primrose, #1, Govt. Arts College Boys Hostel, Primrose Road, Shanthala Nagar	94	81	9480683436
5	**Dr. B. R Ambedkar Medical College (Pulakeshinagar)** Shampura Main Road, KG Halli	75	0	9480683492
WEST ZONE				
6	**Dr. Rajkumar Kala Bhavan,** Nagpura Maid Road, 14th Main, Geleyara Balaga, Mahalakshmi Layout	2	2	9480683484
7	**Manvarthpete Maternity Home,** Balepete Circle	5	5	9480683485
8	**Subedarpalya Govt School,** Next to UPHC Building, Diwanarapalya	0	4	9480683486
9	**Govt. Unani Medical College** Siddaiah Puranik Road, Basaveshwaranagara	30	45	9480683439
10	**Rajajinagar Maternity Hospital (Dr. Nagaraj Maternity Hospital),** Near Ramamandira Ground, Near Bhashyam Circle, Rajajinagar	0	20	9480683440
11	**Govt. Ayurvedic Medical College,** Dhanvanthri Road, Gandhinagar	0	3	9480683437
12	**Kempegowda Samudaya Bhavan CCC,** Nandini Layout	25	55	9480683476
13	**JJR General Hospital,** Sangam Circle, J J R Nagar	0	30	9480683442
SOUTH ZONE				
14	**Adugodi Bosch CCC,** Bosch Sports Complex, Pukhraj Layout Adugodi	48	27	9480683444
15	**Koramangala Indoor Stadium CCC,** KHB Games Village, Koramangala	157	43	9480683445
16	**Vijayanagara Club,** 10, Pipeline Road, R.P.C. Layout, Hosahalli Extension, Vijayanagar	5	5	9480683487
17	**Bunts School,** 3rd Cross, Chikpet Layout, Chandra Layout	5	5	9480683488
18	**Medical And Engineering Hostel,** Near Police Station, Vidyapeeta Circle, Basavanagudi	0	20	9480683450
19	**GG Halli Maternity Home,** Near Kempegowda Statue, Gavi Gangadeswara Temple, Gavipuram Guttahalli	7	5	9480683448
20	**Carmel Convent,** East end Main Road, Jayanagar 4th T Block	5	5	9480683489
21	**Yoga Center,** 10th Main, Jayanagara, 3rd Block	5	5	9480683463
22	**Hosakerehalli Hospital,** Near Raghavendra Swamy Temple, Hosakerehalli	0	40	9480683447
23	**Shuttle Court,** Opp. Sagar Hospital, Kumaraswamy Layout	0	51	9480683465
24	**Wilson Garden Meternity Home,** 9th Cross, 4th Main, Opp. Aghadi Hospital, Wilson Garden	0	24	9480683449
25	**Pobbathi Meternity Home,** Ward No 143, Opp.Subramanya Swamy Temple, Near Sajjan Rao Circle, VV Puram	0	20	9480683446

Sl No	Name of the Triage Centre and Address	Regular beds	Oxygenated beds	BBMP's 24/7 Hotline No.
BOMMANAHALLI ZONE				
26	**Blossom Mulitispeciality Hospital/Vintage Inn Hotel**	48	2	9480683451
27	**Social Welfare Department Hostel,** HSR 1st Sector	48	2	9480683452
28	**Capital Wood Host Resort,** Anjanapura	0	8	9480683453
29	**Basava Bhavan,** 2nd Main Road, 1st Cross, Begur Main Road, Hongasandra, Bommanahalli	26	4	9480683454
DASARAHALLI ZONE				
30	**Jindal Govt High School,** Near Govt Hospital, Srikrupa Layout, Abbigere, Chikkabanavara	0	3	9480683490
31	**Karmikara Bhavana,** 6th Cross, Manjunatha Nagar, Bagalakunte	99	8	9480683455
MAHADEVPURA ZONE				
32	**Oyo Navyashree International Hotel,** Vijnapura	47	31	9480683456
33	**HAL (Dr. V.M. Ghatage Convention Centre)** Near HAL Police Station, HAL Main Road, HAL GB Quatres, Marathalli	138	40	9480683459
34	**Octave Hotel,** No:14 , Marathihalli-Sarjapur Road , Kaikondrahalli	27	12	9480683466
35	**Keys select Hotel,** Plot No:6, 1st phase, ITPL Main Road, Opp. Graphite India	38	12	9480683471
36	**The zinc,** No:165, Chanasandra Main Road, Beside Global School, Vijayanagara, Whitefield	36	14	9480683472
37	**OYO Townhouse,** 071, Brookfield, No.278, 8th Main Road, BEML Layout, Brookefield, Kundlahalli Junction	38	12	9480683474
RAJARAJESHWARI NAGAR ZONE				
38	**North East Girls Hostel (CCC),** Jnanabharathi Campus	337	33	9480683460
39	**Health Centre,** J.P. Park, Ward-17, Mathikere	7	3	9480683478
40	**BBMP Ward Office,** Papareddy Palya, Opp Raghavendra Swamy Temple, Mallathalli (Jnanabharathi)	0	2	9480683481
41	**Swamy Vivekananda Yoga Kendra,** Bel Layout 1st Stage, Herohalli	0	2	9480683482
42	**Dr. Br Ambedkar Bhavan,** 1st Main, Beside Indira Canteen, Shankar Nag Circle, Opp KS Town, Kengeri Upanagar	0	2	9480683483
43	**HMT,** Near SRS Signal, Peenya Govt High School, HMT	15	2	9480683479
44	**Kottigepalya,** Behind BDA Complex	0	2	9480683480
YELAHANKA ZONE				
45	**Govt Pre-Metric Girls Hostel,** Yelahanka, opp. Mini Vidhana Soudha Yelahanka	40	10	9480683461
46	**University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK** Bellary Main Road, After Hebbal, Byatarayanapura	280	100	9480683462
47	**Haj Bhavan,** Nagavara Main Road, Tirumenahalli	0	100	9480683477
48	**Govt High School,** Behind K.E.B Office, Opp. Yelahanka Police Station, Yelahanka	0	5	9480683491

BENGALURU COVID-19 HELPLINE 1912

For direct assistance on Hospital Bed Blocking and Admission, Covid Care Centre Bed Blocking and Admission, BBMP Ambulance Facility, Home Isolation Support



MASK UP STAY SAFE STAY HEALTHY

Rakesh Singh, IAS
Administrator, BBMP

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002.

Gaurav Gupta, IAS
Chief Commissioner, BBMP

TRACKING COVID-19

SPEED AND RISE OF COVID-19 CASES IN KARNATAKA

28,869 CASES REPORTED TODAY

34,281 CASES REPORTED YESTERDAY

TALLY STANDS AT

TODAY	23,35,524
YESTERDAY	23,06,655

DEATHS

TODAY	YESTERDAY
548	468

DISCHARGES

TODAY	YESTERDAY
52,257	49,953

ACTIVE CASES

TODAY	YESTERDAY
5,34,954	5,58,890

POSITIVITY RATE

TODAY	8.24%
YESTERDAY	8.17%

MORTALITY RATE

TODAY	1.02%
YESTERDAY	1.10%

RECOVERY RATE

TODAY	76.07%
YESTERDAY	74.75%

The first Covid-19 case in Karnataka was reported on March 8, 2020. Since then until May 20, 2021, a total of 23,35,524 cases have been reported in 1 year and 70 days...

1,15,08,005 Total doses administered in state

VACCINATION DRIVE STATUS

Number of people completing vaccination	25,62,973
Health care workers 1st dose	7,04,147
Health care workers 2nd dose	4,63,597
Frontline workers 1st dose	5,13,244
Frontline workers 2nd dose	1,98,681
Age 18-45 1st dose	1,35,788
Above 45 1st dose	75,91,853
Above 45 2nd dose	19,00,695

DISTRICT-WISE COVID CASES

LAST 24 HOURS

9,409 BENGALURU URBAN

678 BENGALURU RURAL

Bagalakote: 451	Chamarajanagara: 541	Dakshina Kannada: 926	Hassan: 273	Kolar: 357	Raichuru: 633	Udupi: 809
Ballari: 1,109	Chikkaballapura: 487	Davanagere: 538	Haveri: 321	Koppala: 725	Ramanagara: 480	Uttara Kannada: 582
Belagavi: 948	Chikkamagaluru: 945	Dharwad: 955	Kalaburagi: 399	Mandya: 734	Shivamogga: 719	Vijayapura: 310
Bidar: 94	Chitradurga: 568	Gadag: 469	Kodagu: 439	Mysuru: 1,879	Tumakuru: 1,796	Yadagir: 295

B'luru slums escape second wave

Serosurvey shows 20.3% positivity rate, points to waning antibodies; CBD recorded 24%

CHETANA BELAGERE@ Bengaluru

A sero surveillance study in Bengaluru's 24 slums have shown a seropositivity rate of 20.3 per cent during the second wave. The study suggests that a large proportion of the population may remain either susceptible to SARS-CoV-2, or might have waning antibodies from previous infections.

A rapid community survey to assess the Covid-19 burden in slums was planned as the number of cases reported from slums during the onset of the second wave, was low.

The study was done collaboratively by RGUHS, BBMP, TAC, GoK and Karnataka Association of Community Health in slums attached to 11 medical colleges and Nimhans.

According to Dr Ranganath, professor and HOD, Bangalore Medical College, "The study shows one in five subjects was seropositive to SARS-CoV-2, and one in 15 individuals had active Covid-19 infection."

Dr N R Ramesh Masthi, Professor and Head of Community Medicine, KIMS, who was part of the survey, said the study was done between April 15 and 22, when the second wave was just beginning. "The survey showed an infection to case ratio of 3:1," he explained.

The survey also found that core areas of BBMP, which make up the Central Business District, showed seropositivity of 24%, and outer areas showed 12.5%, indicating that the suburbs were less exposed. This means the CBD had many people who were already infected during the first wave or second wave, and had developed antibodies, he added.

The sample size was 728, while each medical college had to sample 60 people from each slum.

Interestingly, the study also found that cellular immunity could be still playing a role, and preventing them from testing positive even when their IgG immunity was waning.

"The role of cell mediated immunity in protection against SARS-CoV-2 and waning of antibody titers over time, needs to be looked at from these findings. However, we are not able to measure cellular immunity as of now," explained Dr Masthi.

Meanwhile, it was observed that many of these people didn't follow social distancing or maintain hygiene, and only 1.55% was vaccinated with two doses. Dr CN Manjunath, member of Covid-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) said, "There is a high possibility of them getting more affected during the third wave. They should speed up vaccination in these slums," he said. However, the study has some limitations, explained Dr Giridhara Babu R, another TAC member, who was part of the survey. He said this is a very small sample and the study will need more repeat surveys to know the exact findings.

SAFETY FIRST

A 10-month-old child wearing a mask waits with her mother outside a PHC for her regular vaccines, in Bengaluru on Thursday | VINOD KUMAR T

Even before launch, docs prescribe 2-DG drug

KARTHIK KK @ Mysuru

EVEN before the commercial launch and supply of the 2-DG oral anti-viral drug, developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in collaboration with Dr Reddy's Laboratories, several hospitals have already started giving prescription to people to source it on their own to help speed up recovery of Covid-19 patients.

The new drug 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG) is said to help Covid patients with moderate and severe conditions by reducing their oxygen dependence.

Though Dr Reddy's Laboratories has issued a statement stating that the commercial launch and supply of the drug to major government and private hospitals are expected to commence only in mid-June, doctors of many private hospitals across the state are prescribing the drug.

The New Indian Express has a copy of the prescription given by a doctor of a private hospital in Mysuru suggesting to a 42-year-old male Covid patient to get 10 sachets of 2-DG.

"This was prescribed by the doctor treating my brother who is infected with Covid-19... the doctor said it will help him in faster recovery. I called many pharmacy agents and reached out to many friends and family members, only to realise that it is yet to be launched. This is causing us more stress amid the pandemic along with the anxiety of our loved ones being hospitalised," he added.

Experts and drug controllers point out that such a trend can result in miscreants selling fake drugs in the market. "The same thing happened with Remdesivir. There is a need to monitor such practices and curb them," a retired drug controller said.

When *The New Indian Express* reached out to Dr Reddy's, they clarified that they have no stock of 2-DG at the moment.

"We are working hard to advance the launch and expect it to be in the market by mid-June. 2-DG is meant for use in a hospital setting under a qualified doctor's supervision and one must beware of agents selling 2-DG now. This may be spurious and illegal and could even be harmful to patients," the statement by Dr Reddy's Laboratories read.

REMDESIVIR SUPPLY FREES UP, HOSPITALS DEMAND FEWER VIALS

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

A leading private hospital in Bengaluru last week sought 450 vials, but this week, asked for just 72 — an anomaly which left health department officials surprised, and led to an inquiry.

It revealed that the drop in demand was because supply of Remdesivir was being regulated, with a linking SFRID or BU number for each vial. "The hospital has to give BU number or SRFID of each patient, so this has put an end to high demand, stocking up and black marketeering. It was expected and has helped us know the actual demand," an official said.

Hospitals, however, say that demand has reduced after WHO declared that Remdesivir does not help in curing the patient, so doctors have decided against its use. "When we prescribed it, many patients started questioning why it was being given, as it is not a complete cure. So we decided to go by WHO guidelines and reduced demand. We use it only on case basis now," said a doctor from a private hospital.

Experts argue: "WHO guidelines were issued on October 23, 2020, and going by this, demand should have been zero. But because accountability is being maintained, demand has come down. Interestingly, hospitals continue to ask patients to get the vial from outside, despite them getting stock on demand. They tell attendants there is shortage and they need to get it from outside."

According to the Drugs Control department website and government records, total supply from April 21 to May 17 has been 1,96,625 vials to government hospitals, and 3,45,027 vials to the open market. Records show that on May 17, a total of 26,100 Remdesivir vials were given, while the highest number of 54,540 vials was given on May 13. The lowest number since April 21 was 2,880, and there was no supply on April 25.

While patients admitted privately to hospitals found it difficult to procure Remdesivir, many said they had no problems. Giridhar Patil, who was admitted through BBMP, needed six doses. "Each time he needed it, the hospital raised the indent and he got it," said Patil's wife Rashmi Patil.

Srinath Babu, who got his brother admitted in a private hospital, said: "The hospital gave me the prescription and I approached the Drug Controller war roomand doses were given in 14 hours."

However, Jyothi Praveen, a volunteer, said two families trying to get Remdesivir were unable to do so as the control room numbers did not connect and hospitals were out of stock.

20 children part of ZyCoV-D vax trials

NAUSHAD BIJAPUR @ Belagavi

THE Jeevan Rekha Hospital in Belagavi has successfully conducted Phase-1 clinical trials of the country's second indigenously developed vaccine ZyCoV-D, on 20 children aged between 12 and 18. None of the 20 children are showing any side effects or other health complications two months after getting the vaccine, said Dr Amit Bhate, Director of the hospital.

The hospital was also one of the 12 centres in the country where clinical trials of Covaxin also took place successfully last year.

Dr Bhate said the doctors at his hospital were keeping a tab on the condition of all the 20 children for the past two months and found that they were healthy.

All the children were given three doses each of ZyCoV-D. He said the parents of all the children had brought them voluntarily for the clinical trials. "The audio and video consent of the parents of all 20 children has been taken before the trials," he said.

The blood samples and antibodies in all the children will be tested regularly for the next 12 months before coming to a conclusion about the success of ZyCoV-D and it is made available for all children by the authorities.

TOUGH STAND

Come up with rational policy on 2nd dose, HC tells state

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

REITERATING its displeasure over the way the vaccination drive is being conducted in the state, the Karnataka High Court directed the government to figure out the number of beneficiaries who have completed 16 weeks post first dose of Covishield and six weeks after first dose of Covaxin.

A special division bench of Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka and Justice Aravind Kumar said that the state needs to have a database of the number of people who need the second dose and also prioritise the age group of 45+ and 60+. Currently, the state has decided that no one will get the first dose other than frontline and health workers.

Recording the submission of Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati that the state has powers to issue directives to private hospitals not to administer first dose, except for frontline and health workers, the court said, "When there is an acute shortage of vaccine for second dose, the state has to come out with a rational and fair policy on administering second dose and also take a stand on issuing directions to private hospitals. We also make it clear that the government has to take a stand whether private agencies are permitted to administer the first dose."

The court asked the state to submit details of oxygen being lifted daily out of total allocation made by the Centre and also the actual requirement.

People wait outside Bengaluru's KC General Hospital for Covid-19 vaccine, on Thursday, on a day when the city saw 9,409 fresh cases | SHRIRAM BN

Jab for priority groups in 18-44 age category from tomorrow

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

COVID-19 vaccination, which was suspended soon after it began for the 18-44 age group, will restart on May 22. Nodal officers will have to be appointed by BBMP Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners to hand out eligibility certificates to two groups listed by the government— frontline workers and priority groups.

Frontline workers listed in the letter written by the National Health Mission Director Arundhathi Chandrashekar include those working in crematoria, graveyards and burial grounds, immediate family members of health workers, teachers on Covid-19 duty, government transport staff, autorickshaw and cab drivers, electricity and water supply staff, postal employees, road-side vendors, security and housekeeping staff of offices, judicial officers, caretakers of elders and patients, child protection officers, media, suppliers of goods to hospitals, oil industry, and people with disabilities and mental health issues along with one attendant.

Priority groups include construction workers, telecom and Internet service providers, airline staff, bank staff, petrol bunk employees, film industry workers, advocates, hotel and hospitality sector, railway employees, garment factory workers, forest department staff, those wroking in NHAI and GAIL, sports persons representing the state and country and HAL employees.

State forms CAM Task Force on black fungus

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"In normal circumstances, a busy tertiary referral centre sees around 12 to 15 cases in a year, so the medication is stocked accordingly. Amphotericin is the first choice of medication. There are other antifungal medications like Posaconazole, Isavuconazole that can be used as alternatives, but they may not be as effective as Amphotericin-B," Dr Athira Ramakrishnan said.

"There has been a significant rise in Mucormycosis cases and it mostly affects the lungs and sinuses because of the use of steroids, inadequate monitoring of blood sugar level, altered innate immunity, invasion of vessels and formation of clots.," said Dr Girish Anand, consultant ENT specialist Aster CMI Hospital, Hebbal.

Many messages have also been circulating on social media platforms inquiring about the availability of the drug.

The State Government has formed a CAM Task Force and the Centre, after notifying it as an epidemic, on Thursday said that the shortage of Amphotericin B will be resolved. Its production has been ramped up by the existing six companies and five more firms have received approval for producing it in India. Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya tweeted that Indian firms have placed orders for importing 6 lakh vials of Amphotericin-B.

BLURRING THE DIVIDE

Congress MP performs last rites of family friend

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

WHEN Rajya Sabha MP Dr Syed Naseer Hussain drove out with wife Mehnaz on Tuesday, carrying an urn holding the ashes of family friend Prof Savitri Vishwanathan, he was unsure of what he was expected to do. They were headed to a point on the Cauvery river.

He knew that the ritual was *asthi visarjan*, the immersion of ashes, but was ignorant about the nuances of the rites he was to perform. An *archak* was accompanying them with the *puja* kit, and would chant the *mantras* and *shlokas* and instruct Hussain on his role. Hussain carried out the directions, saying a prayer as he released the ashes into the waters of the Cauvery.

MP Dr Syed Naseer Hussain (centre) and his wife Mehnaz wait to perform the asthi visarjan of Prof Savitri Vishwanathan (inset) on the banks of the Cauvery river

He felt at peace that he had done his bit for his old friend. "I kept asking the priest if I was doing it right. *Asthi visarjan* is the immersion of mortal remains in flowing water so the five elements are restored – air, water, earth, fire and ether. May God give her peace in the next world," he said.

Prof Savitri Vishwanathan, an eminent language researcher, passed away due to Covid-19 complications, while her sister, Dr Mahalakshmi Atreyi, is still in hospital. The sisters lived together, and were recently diagnosed with Covid. None of their family members were available to perform the rituals, since many live outside Bengaluru and some are abroad. Hussain was acting on the directions of Dr Atreyi. Savitri who was a former Professor of Japanese Studies, University of Delhi, and a teacher and researcher of Japanese language, history and politics. She headed the Department of Chinese and Japanese Studies. She made an immense contribution to Japanese language and studies, and was a member of the Japan-India Eminent Persons Group. She had even assisted prime ministers and foreign ministers of India in their official dialogue with their counterparts in Japan. Her numerous publications include a translation of Shimazaki Toson's novel Hakai into Hindi (*Avagna*) and Tamil (*Dalit Padumpadu*).

The professor had settled down in Bengaluru 25 years ago. Her students from across the world joined in a prayer service organised by the Japan Foundation and Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi.

Govt 'no' to Siddu's meeting with DCs

No provision for Oppn leader to hold a meeting via video conference, says chief secy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

FORMER Chief Minister and Opposition leader Siddaramaiah on Thursday hit out at the state government for rejecting his request to hold a meeting with deputy commissioners via video conferencing to get details about Covid management measures.

Responding to his letter requesting the meeting, the Chief Secretary informed Siddamaiah that he can get the details by writing to the DCs or the department heads and there was no provision for the Opposition Leader to hold such a meeting via videoconference with district-level officers.

"I had written to the Chief Secretary on May 17 asking him to direct the DCs, SPs and zilla panchayat chief executive officers to attend the Zoom meeting and provide information about the measures taken. After three days, the CS wrote to me informing me that there was no provision for the Opposition Leader to hold such a meeting and can get information by writing to the officers," Siddaramaiah stated in a letter to Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa.

"I urge you to immediately instruct the officials concerned to attend the Zoom meeting and provide information, failing which I am ready for any kind of Parliamentary confrontation to safeguard public interests," Siddaramaiah stated. Siddaramaiah said the CM should allow him to exercise his legislative powers and responsibilities without giving any opportunity for a confrontation.

The former CM said the meeting was not called to give any instructions or to review the work of the officers, but to get information about the measures taken by them. A format in which the information was required to be provided was also sent to the officers, he said.

Stating that the government had not responded to 12 letters he wrote, seeking information, the former CM accused the state government of trying to stop the opposition from holding meetings and getting information.

KEEPING AN EYE

Police check documents of motorists at a check-point at KR Market during the ongoing lockdown on Thursday | SHRIRAM BN

All GPs to get ₹50k each as Covid aid

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AS Covid-19 has started spreading from urban areas to rural areas, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa has decided to provide Rs 50,000 to all 6,000 gram panchayats in the state from the State Disaster Response Fund.

"The village task force committees will utilise the funds to shift Covid patients to Covidcare centres (CCCs). District administrations and all public representatives will be requested to actively participate in Covid containment activities," Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar said,

Recently, the state decided to shift those whose homes are not ideal for isolation in rural areas, to CCCs, once they test positive. Also districts reporting more cases will be provided 25 oxygen concentrators each. This is after the state received 800 oxygen concentrators meant for distribution to various districts, including Hassan, Mandya, Chikkaballapura, Kolar and Chitradurga where there is a lack of facilities.

"We are working to provide more assistance, including ICU facilities and oxygen, in all medical colleges across the state. At present, the positivity rate is at 27 per cent. We are aiming to reduce it further by 5 per cent and also to reduce the mortality rate. IIT Kanpur has provided databases and research inputs to other countries on Covid projections and the Centre has also advised on the same," said Sudhakar.

Temples to distribute grains to poor, archaks

ASHWINI M SRIPAD
@ Bengaluru:

THE state endowment department is appealing to temples which are self-sufficient to distribute grains to the poor and needy. The department is also distributing foodgrain kits to archaks who work in their temples.

Many temples in Karnataka are known to feed thousands of devotees every day, but this was before the lockdown. With this ritual having been stopped due to the lockdown, grains donated by devotees are stored in their godowns. These will be packed and distributed to locals. Banashankari temple in Bengaluru has started distributing 5kg of rice and dal to the poor.

Officials from the endowment department said tonnes of grains are lying in their godowns. "We cannot keep these grains for long as they might start rotting. We have appealed to the temple authorities concerned to distribute grains among the needy. This is not mandatory," he said.

Endowment Minister Kota Shrinivas Poojary told TNIE that he had issued an order to all temples to pack 50,000 foodgrain kits worth Rs 1,500, including rice, dal and other essentials, to be distributed to families of archaks.

On Thursday, Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa gave a nod to release tastik allowance -- given to archaks to buy puja material – up to July.

MONSOON SESSION UNLIKELY THIS YEAR

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru:

THE KARNATAKA government, which is struggling to manage the Covid pandemic, is likely to skip the monsoon session which is usually held in June or July.

In March 2020, when the first few Covid cases were reported in Karnataka, the budget session was cut short. Later, the monsoon session was slated for eight days in September, but was cut to four days as cases were on the rise. "Last year, there weren't so many cases. We conducted the session with all safety measures in place, including a mandatory Covid-negative certificate to enter the session, members sat apart and masks were compulsory," sources said.

The government also conducted the winter session in December and budget session early this year, when cases were falling. "We cannot take the risk this year, and can't even trust RT-PCR tests as many people are showing symptoms in spite of getting negative reports," sources in the legislative assembly office said. "We might not hold sessions for the next few months at least. Experts are already warning of a third wave."

Speaker Vishveshwara Hegde Kageri said it is too early to say anything. "We normally hold the monsoon session in June or July. Our last session was in March 2021, and as per rules, we have six months -- till September – to conduct the next session. We will check the situation and take a decision," he said.

MORE RESTRICTIONS

Lockdown norms to be stricter: Home minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

As Covid cases continue to surge in rural areas despite the lockdown, the home department will enforce the norms more strictly and take stern action against those violating the guidelines.

Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday said cases were increasing in rural areas and the deputy commissioners have imposed a complete lockdown in many districts. "People have to understand the seriousness of the situation and the need to impose a complete lockdown for three to four days," the minister said.

He said the measures taken by the police department, including seizing vehicles, will be enforced more strictly in the days to come. He appealed to people to cooperate with the police.

The 14-day lockdown will end on May 24 and in the next two days, the government is likely to take a decision on extending it.

Tougher curbs next week, hints Ashoka

Revenue Minister R Ashoka on Thursday said the government was contemplating more stringent measures in the coming weeks to contain the spread of Covid-19. Ashoka said, "The lockdown so far has helped bring down cases. More stringent measures are being considered by the government for the next week." While lambasting the Congress, Ashoka said historically, opposition parties have worked in tandem with the government in times of crises and emergencies.

महाराष्ट्र रेल इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर डेवलपमेंट कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड
MAHARASHTRA RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(महाराष्ट्र शासन आणि रेल्वे मंत्रालय यांचा संयुक्त उपक्रम)
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of Maharashtra and Ministry of Railways)

Notice Inviting E- Tender

E-Tender No. MRIDC/PROJ/e-TENDER/P-Way/NTC/2021/96

MRIDC is inviting E-bids from the eligible bidders for the work mentioned below:

(a) Name of Work: Assembling, laying and linking of BG Railway track with Contractor's NTC Machine set confirming to IRPWM on completed initial ballast bed for main lines, loop lines, chord lines, siding, Bridges, sand hump, Isolations, Dead ends, Turnouts etc with Contractor's own Machineries & P-Way materials (Except Rails, Sleeper & Ballast), labours, plant & machineries etc along with Construction of NTC Depot including all incidental works to make track as per Railway Standards from Chainage (-) 1.214 KM to Chainage 105 km in connection with Gauge Conversion Work between Nagbhir to Itwari Section in Nagpur Division of South East Central Railway." - Mechanized Track Laying Work by New Track Construction (NTC) Machine. **(b) Estimated Cost:** ₹ 75,06,59,101/- . **(c) Completion Period:** 240 Days. **(d) Last Date and Time for Submission of Bid:** 24/06/2021 till 15:00 Hrs.

Interested bidders who wish to participate should visit MRIDC's official website **www.maharail.com** or e-bidding portal **www.tenderwizard.in/MAHARAIL** to bid their offer. Any Addendum / Corrigendum to this notice will be uploaded on the above-mentioned websites only.

MANAGING DIRECTOR

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General public that our clients intend to purchase vacant site bearing khatha No.155, comprised in Sy.No.62/3 of Gollahalli village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, now within BBMP limits, Ward No.196, measuring East to West: 40 feet and North to South: 30 feet, and bounded on the East By: Private property, West By: Road, North By: Private property, South By : Private property, from its owner **Mrs. R SUMITHRA**, W/o.M Murthy. Any person/s asserting any kind of right, title, interest or claims of any sort towards the Sale transaction may file their objections or claims with documentary proof thereof with the undersigned within **SEVEN** days from the date of this publication, failing which our clients will proceed to complete the transaction without being liable for any claims put forth thereof.

PRAROOP LAW, ADVOCATES
#31/9, 'NCP Tower', I Floor, I Main, Mount Joy extension, Hanumanthnagar, Bengaluru -19.
E-mail : prarooplaw@gmail.com
Phone : 9886012455
Bengaluru Date: 20/05/2021

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NOTIFICATION

Refer to CSIR-NAL Advertisement No. 3/2021 dated 10.04.2021. The last date for submission of online application is extended by Competent Authority from 22.05.2021 to 06.06.2021 for the following posts. For details visit CSIR-NAL website **www.nal.res.in**

1) Technical Assistant **2)** Technical Officer **3)** Senior Technical Officer-1 **4)** Senior Technical Officer-2

Sd/-
Controller of Administration

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH TIRUPATI
(An Autonomous Institution under Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

RECRUITMENT FOR COUNSELLOR - FEMALE ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS

IISER Tirupati invites online applications from Indian nationals having excellent academic record and relevant work experience for the post of "Counsellor - Female" on contractual basis.
For detailed advertisement, please visit **www.iisertirupati.ac.in** and click on the link **"Opportunities-Technical/Administration".**
The last date for submission of online applications is **June 10, 2021.**

Advt. No.16/2021/IISER-T/Rect./20.05.2021. **Sd/- Registrar**

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BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

NOTIFICATION

BESCOM invited tender for "Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of Automatic Power Factor Correction Systems for 149 Nos of Distribution Transformer Centres in BESCOM" vide Bid enquiry no: BESCOM/DGM(SG&EV)/BC-53/Enq 02 Dated: 04.05.2021. In this regard, Brief Tender Notification was issued on 10.05.2021.
The Prebid meeting for the subject tender has been scheduled on 27.05.2021 at 11:00 hrs through video conference only. The prospective bidders can join the meeting by logging on to **https://meet.google.com/och-dqbd-uuj** on scheduled time.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager, (SG&EV) Corporate Office, BESCOM

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ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 08/2021–22/ ದಿನಾಂಕ:17–05–2021

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಉಪವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಡುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ **(Standard Tender Document - KW 4** ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗನುಸಾರ) ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 600.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಆಗಿರುತ್ತವೆ.

1) ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 1ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03–06–2021ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕು. ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04–06–2021ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.15 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾದಲ್ಲಿ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಈ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಂದು ಆಕಸ್ಮಿಕ ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳು ಬಂದಲ್ಲಿ ಮರುದಿನವನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಷಯ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ತಿಳಿಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು **www.kpwd.gov.in.pwd website**ನಲ್ಲಿ ಓದಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು

Govt. Of Karnataka
RURAL DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DIVISION, BIDAR
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಗವಾನಚೌಕ್–ಕಿಲಾ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೀದರ–585 401.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ 08482-231688, Email-eerdwsd.bdr1@gmail.com

Ref:EE/RDWSD/Bidar/PB-03/Tender/2021-22/106 Date: 18.05.2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer RDWS & S Division Bidar invites Tenders from eligible bidders for the work as per KW-3 Standard Tender Bid Document under H/A 4215-MVS O&M for year 2021-22 amounting from Rs. 50.50 Lakhs, through e-Procurement platform www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in only. The KTPP Act shall be followed.

TIME SCHEDULE

1) Notification Date and Download of tender schedule documents through e portal: **18.05.2021 to 29.05.2021,** 2) Last date for submission of bids : **29.05.2021 Time : 17.00 PM,** 3) Date & Time of Technical bid opening : **31.05.2021 Time : 11.00 AM,** 4) Date & Time of Financial bid opening : After technical bid approval

For details of works and conditions, please contact this office in office hours or visit website http//eproc.karnataka.gov.in where the details are available.

DIP/Bidar/17/MC&A/2021-22 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, RDWS&S Division Bidar.**

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)

No.: GESCOM/CEE(O)/EE(IT)/AEE(IT)/AE(IT)/2021-22/5953 Date: 18-05-2021

:: TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

1) Description of work : GESCOM/CEE/EE/2020-21/IT08 "System Integration for implementation Of web based Total Revenue Management (TRM) system services and big data analytics services in RAPDRP towns of GESCOM on Build Operate Own and Maintenance (BOOM) basis" for Bellary Zone, 2) Amount put to tender (in Rs.) with GST : **Rs. 6.97 Crore,** 3) Contractor Qualifying Requirement : As per tender documents (RFP), 4) Visit e-procurement portal on or After for Bid Documents : 20.05.2021 after 10.30 Hrs, 5) Last Date of submission of Queries : 05.06.2021 up to 17.30 Hrs, 6) Last Date & time for receipt of Bids through Electronic Mode only : 20.06.2021 up to 17.30 Hrs, 7) Date & time of opening of Electronic Bid Sheets (Technical Bid):22.06.2021 at 10:30 Hrs, 8) Date & time of opening of Electronic Bid Sheets (Price Bid) : 23.06.2021 at 10:30 Hrs, 9) For more information Contact : The Chief Engineer (Electy), Corporate Office, GESCOM Opp. Pariwar Hotel station road, Kalaburgi 585102, Karnataka, India, Mobile: 9448359004, e-mail: eeitcellgescom@gmail.com, 10) Web Site Address : **www.e-proc.karnataka.gov.in**

DIP/Kalaburagi/170/MC&A/2021-22 **Sd/- Chief Engineer Electy., Operations, GESCOM, Kalaburagi**

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1, NAWAB YUSUF ROAD, CIVIL LINE, PRAYAGRAJ-211001 FAX No.: 0532-2408826

Tender No: ELCORE-OHE-TSS-GR-299-M **Closing Date/Time : 11.06.2021 15:00**

CORE-HQ-ELECTRICAL/CORE TENDER DOCUMENT

CAO/RE acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No ELCORE-OHE-TSS-GR-299-M Closing Date/Time 11.06.2021 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.
Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towords tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

1- NIT HEADER

Name of Work : "Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 25 kv, 50 Hz, Single Phase, AC, Electrification Works including OHE & TSS as Composite Electrical Work" in Mysuru (Excl.)- Arsikere (Excl.)- & Hassan (Excl.)-Manglaore (Excl.) Section Gr. 299 of Mysuru Division of South Western Railway under RE Project Bangaluru, Total 347 RKM/410 TKM.

Bidding type	Two Stage Reverse Auction		
Tender Type	Open	Bidding System	Two Packet System
Tender Closing Date Time	11.06.2021 15:00	Date Time of Uploading Tender	18.05.2021 17:05
Pre-Bid Conference Required	No	Pre-Bid Conference Date Time	Not Applicable
Advertised Value	1149784535.83	Tendering Section	OHE
Bidding Style	Single Rate for Each Schedule Item	Bidding Unit	
Earnest Money/Bid Security (Rs.)	0.00	Validity of Offer (Days)	60
Obtain Bid Security Declaration in lieu of Bid Security		Yes	
Tender Doc. Cost (Rs.)	0.00	Period of Completion	24 Months
Contract Type	Works	Contract Category	Expenditure
Bidding Start Date	28.05.2021	Are Joint Venture (JV) firms allowed to bid	Yes
Ranking Order For Bids	Lowest to Highest	Expenditure Type	Capital (Works)
Auto Elimination rules applicable	Yes	Minimum Decrement (%)	.2
Initial Cooling Off Period (HH:MM)	04:00	Subsequent Cooling Off Period (HH:MM)	00:20

No.: PR 26/2021 (V) **"Serving Customers with a Smile"** www.ireps.gov.in

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e-Procurement Tender Notice (Paper Notification)

TSSPDCL intends to float tenders for procurement of (a) 12V Batteries of various AH Capacities (b) Modems and Routers (c) Three phase Net Meters (d) 9.1 Mtrs/280 Kgs PSCC Poles to Mahaboobnagar cirlce on e-procurement platform and (e) E-auction for disposal of various scrap materials on e-procurement platform. For further details of each item above, please visit **www.tssouthernpower.com**, **www.tender.telangana.gov.in** and **www.auction.telangana.gov.in. Phone : 040-23431319, 1035, 1026, 1448**

R.O. No:1802-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22 Date:20-05-2021 Sd/- (U.BALA SWAMY) Chief General Manager (P&MM)

HUBLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Superintending Engineer (Ele), Tendering & Procurement Navanagar, P.B. Road, Hubli-580 025.
Tel : 0836-2322966, Fax : 0836-2324307
E-mail ID : seetp.hescom@gmail.com, seetp@hescom.co.in
Corporate Identity Number (CIN): U31401KA2002SGC030437
No: HESCOM/SEE(T&P)/E-7/AEE-2/2021-22/2252-53 Date : 20.05.2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement Portal Only)

The undersigned invites tenders in two parts (Part –I: Techno-Commercial Bid and Part-II :Price Bid) through e-procurement portal for manufacture & supply & providing services of the following.

Sl.No	Particulars	Enq.No.
1	Supply of New Lorries 16T GVW BS-VI as per standard	HESCOM/2020-21/IND708/CALL-2
2	Design, Manufacture, testing, inspection & Supply Single phase, Three Phase & HT Electronic Portable Reference Meter (calibrators)	HESCOM/2021-22/IND716
3	No.15 Strain Insulators	HESCOM/2020-21/IND695/CALL-4
4	No.8 Strain Insulatos	HESCOM/2020-21/IND696/CALL-4
5	Vehicles to HESCOM Corporate Office Hubballi on contract basis	HESCOM/SEE(T&P)/EE-PROC/AEE-1 /VHCL/21-22
6	Security Guard	HESCOM/SEE(T&P)/EE(T&P)/2021-22/SG
7	Attender	HESCOM/SEE(T&P)/EE(T&P)/2021-22/ATTND
8	Driver	HESCOM/SEE(T&P)/EE(T&P)/2021-22/DRVR
9	Data Entry Operator	HESCOM/SEE(T&P)/EE(T&P)/2021-22/DEO

For further details visit the website: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in on OR after **21-05-2021**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, (Ele)
Tendering & Procurement,
HESCOM, Hubballi

DIPR/DWD/MCA/132/2021-22

ओएनजीसी ONGC

Expression of Interest (EOI)

ONGC, Eastern Offshore Asset, Kakinada invites Pre-qualification criteria (PQC) from reputed and interested domestic agencies for providing Geophysical, Geotechnical survey services for F1 & GS-29 deep-water development project with an objective to ascertain the Experience criteria / Pre-Qualification Criteria (PQC). The details of EOI: **PQC meet: 01.06.2021, Venue: Kakinada, Last date of receipt of interest response: 28.05.2021. Note:** For further details, please logon to ONGC web site **https://tenders.ongc.co.in**

HAR EK KAAM DESH KE NAAM

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

Rajankunte Branch
Address: Kakolu Road, Rajankunte,
Phone No. 080-28468798
Mail id:_cb1181@unionbankofindia.com

DEMAND NOTICE
UNDER SEC.13 (2) SARFAESI Act 2002

Enforcement of security interest Action Notice-In connection with the credit facilities enjoyed by the following borrowers with in the branches mentioned herein below-classified as NPA

We have to inform you that you whose Name & Address mentioned here in below had availed following credit facilities from **Union Bank of India, Rajankunte Branch**, offering the property, mentioned here in below. Since you have failed to repay the loan amounts as agreed by you, your following mentioned account/s has/have been classified as Non Performing Assets [NPA] as on the date mentioned herein below. The individual notice has been also already sent to you demanding the due amount

Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: 1) Ramachandrappa B.N. S/o Narshappa, Bochenahalli, Devapura, Chitradurga Karnataka, PIN-577527. **2) Kavitha G.H W/o Ramachandrappa-Co- Obligant** Bochenahalli, Devapura, Chitradurga, Karnataka, PIN-577527

Name of Facility Amount Due

Facility/Loan	Limits	Outstanding as on 07.04.2021
CHOME-560631000304000	28.00 Lakhs	Rs 27,73,555.83/-
Total	28.00 Lakhs	Rs 27,73,555.83/-

Amount Outstanding : as on 07.04.2021, Rs 27,73,555.83/- (Rupees Twenty seven lakhs seventy three thousand five hundred fifty five rupees and eighty three paise only) together with interest.

Classified as NPA as on. 31.03.2021 Demand Date : 07.04.2021

Description Of The Secured Assets: Residential site and house located at No. 92, Panchath Khata 1267/1018/92, IV Cross, Tararabalu Layout, Addevishwanathapura (V), Rajankunte, Hesarghatta hobli, Bangalore-562123. Dimensions of the site:1200 sq. ft Boundaries of the property: North By : Site no. 91, South by : Site no. 92, East by : Road, West by :Pathway

If you fail to repay the aforesaid sum with interest and incidental expenses within 60 days from the date of this notice, Bank shall exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub section (4) of the section 13 of the SARFAESI Act. You are also put on notice that in terms of sub section 13 of section 13, you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed above without obtaining written consent of the Bank. This notice is without prejudice to the Banks rights to initiate such other action or legal proceedings as it deem necessary under any other applicable provisions of law. Your kind attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date : 20.05.2021 Sd/- Authorised Officer
Place : Bangalore Union Bank of India

ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಇಂಜನಿಯರ್ ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಪಿ.ಆರ್.ಎ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.,
4ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಪಿ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ.ಡಿ. ಅನೆಕ್ಸ್ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ವೃತ್ತ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560 001.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಪ್ರಇಂ/27/ಪಿಆರ್ಎಎಂಸಿ/ರಸು/2020–21 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 20–05–2021

ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ 1 ರಸ್ತೆ ಸುರಕ್ಷತಾ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಪಿ.ಆರ್.ಎ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ., ರವರು ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಇ–ಪ್ರಾಕ್ ನಿಂದ (www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) ದಿನಾಂಕ : **24–05–2021** ರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ : **05–06–2021 ಸಂಜೆ 05:30** ರೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರಾಕ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: **cepramc@kpwd.gov.in**

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಪಿ.ಆರ್.ಎ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ., ಪಿಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂಡಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ವಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಜಂ.ನಗರ/RO. No. 397/2021–22

ಕೋವಿಡ್–19 ಆತಂಕ ಬೇಡ: ಮುನ್ನೆಚ್ಚರಿಕೆ ಇರಲಿ

ಮಾಸ್ಕ್ ಧರಿಸಿ | 6 ಅಡಿ ದೈಹಿಕ ಅಂತರ ಪಾಲಿಸಿ | ಕೈಗಳ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತೆ ಕಾಪಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಿ

KMF MOTHER DAIRY
G.K.V.K. Post, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560065
(A Unit of: Karnataka Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation Ltd)
Tel.: 080-22179004 Fax: 080-28462652 E-mail: purchase@motherdairykmf.in

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Mother Dairy, a unit of KMF Bangalore is inviting E-Tenders for Supply of following items.

A. IFT NO.MD/PUR/ E-Proc T-189/2021-22, Date: 13-05-2021

I. Supply on Rate Contract Basis. 1) Nandini 30 ml cup eflute box-108000 Nos 2) Nandini 65 ml Cup eflute box-175000 Nos 3) Nandini 50 ml cone eflute box-200000 Nos 4) Nandini 120 ml cone eflute box-100000 Nos 5) Nandin Mango sundae e flute box-100000 Nos 6) Nandini Junior chocobar/kulfi eflute box-50000 Nos 7) Nandini Dolly/ Chocobar eflute box-100000 Nos 8) Amul 65 ml cup eflute box -60000 Nos 9) Amul 1 ltr tub e-flute box-60000 Nos 10) Nandini/Amul 50ml Candy e-flute box-80000 Nos.

The manufacturers, dealers or interested eligible tenderers are requested to participate on-line only. For further details, Tender documents can be downloaded from the website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from 13-05-2021 and submitted on or before 27-05-2021 at 17.00 hrs.

For Mother Dairy
Sd/-
Director

Government of Telangana
HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD
O/o. Chief General Manager (Engg), STP Circle-I, Khairatabad, Hyderabad - 04, Telangana State.

Amendment

EoI. No. 02/HMWSSB/CGM(E)/STP Circle-I/STPs-Bio-Gas/Sale/2021-22, Dated : 10-05-2021

On administrative grounds the following amendment is hereby issued and the agencies are requested to note the same :

1	Submission of Application by the agencies	From 26.05.2021 to 31.05.2021
2	Issue of Tender Documents	From 01.06.2021 to 05.06.2021 upto 5.00 PM instead of 17.05.2021 to 22.05.2021
3	Last Date for submission of Tender Document	14.06.2021 upto 3.00 PM
4	Date of opening of Tenders	14.06.2021 @ 4.30 PM
5	EOI shall be read as Tender notice no. & CNG shall be read as CBG	

Sd/- Chief General Manager (Engg), STP Circle-I, Khairatabad, Hyd - 04, Telangana State.
Email : cgmstphmwssb@gmail.com Mobile No. : 9989998362

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking
(Of The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation)

TENDER NOTICE

e-tenders are invited for the supply of following item.

(1) Supply of 33KV, 1500 MVA, Vacuum Type Indoor Switchgear, (2) Supply of 16/20 MVA, ONAN/ONAF, 33 KV/11KV Power Transformers with NIFP System, (3) Annual Rate Contract for LV/HV/EHV Cable Laying Activity, (4) 70772 - Thermal Paper Rolls with Advertisement rights for printing Advertisements on the backside of Thermal Paper Rolls

RE-INVITED E-TENDERS

(5) 69032.

Note : For more details, log on to website **https://mahatenders.gov.in.**

PRO/AAM(M)/20/2021 GENERAL MANAGER

ಕೆನರಾ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ Canara Bank
(ಭಾರತ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಒಂದು ಉದ್ಯಮ) (A Government of India Undertaking) Together We Can

Chamarajpet - 1 Branch : No. 6, 2nd Main, 2nd Cross, Chamarajpet, Bangalore - 560018. Ph No 080-26508640/22425149.
Email : cb0405@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE TO BORROWER / GUARANTOR / MORTGAGOR

Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

To,

Borrower : Mr. K R Nagesh, S/o Late K V Radhakrishnaiah
Proprietor – **M/s HOTEL VANDEMATARAM**, Proprietorship concern
Guarantor : Mrs K R Sujatha, W/o late K V Radhakrishnaiah
Both are residing at : "Radhakrishna Nilaya" No. 126, II Cross
K G Nagar Main Road, Bangalore - 560019.

That you, **Mr K R Nagesh, Proprietor M/s Hotel Vandemataram** have availed various loan against which there are outstanding liabilities as mentioned below. We had called upon you to clear the entire liabilities for the loans borrowed from our Branch.

You have committed default in repayment of loans as mentioned below and the loans were classified as Non Performing Assets on **30.03.2021.** The Bank through this notice brings to your attention that you have failed and neglected to repay the said dues/ outstanding liabilities and hence hereby demand you under Section 13(2) of the Act, by issuing this notice to discharge in full the liabilities of the Borrower as stated in hereunder to the Bank **within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice.** The notice under Sec.13(2) of the Act sent to you by Registered Post. Ack. Due on **26.04.2021**. has returned undelivered.

Further, it is brought to your notice that you are also liable to pay future interest at 2.00% penal interest together with all costs, charges, expenses and incidental expenses with respect to the proceedings undertaken by the bank in recovering its dues.

Please take note of the fact that if you fail to repay to the Bank the aforesaid sum of **Rs.76,88,623.00 (Rupees Seventy Six Lakhs Eighty Eight Thousand and Six Hundred Twenty Three Only)**, as on **20.4.2021** and together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs as stated above in terms of this notice under Section 13(2) of the Act, The Bank will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub-section (4)(a) and (b) of Section 13. You are hereby restrained from dealing with any of the secured assets detailed below in terms of Section 13(13).

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

A/C No.	Nature of Loan	Amount	Liability as on 20.4.2021	ROI %
1229256000006	OD/CC working capital	**Rs.55,00,000.00**	**Rs.57,26,398.00**	**8.95**
0405710000022	CFITL	**Rs. 3,06,988.00**	**Rs. 3,14,568.00**	**9.95**
0405753000001	CCS	**Rs.10,00,000.00**	**Rs. 9,77,031.00**	**7.65**
0405755000020	GECL	**Rs. 6,50,000.00**	**Rs. 6,70,626.00**	**7.50**

Details of Security Assests : 1) Hypothecation of stocks and Book debts. Name of title holder : **M/s Hotel Vandemataram.**

2) EMT of Residential site no. 2595, 3rd Block, Sir M Vishweshwaraiah Layout, Bangalore - 560056, allotted by BDA, Measuring East to West 9.00 mts and North to South 12 mts, Total 108.00 Sq meters or 1162 sq ft. Bounded on : **East By :** Site No. 2594, **West By :** Site No.2596, **North By :** Road and **South By :** Site No. 2598.

Name of title holder : **Mrs K R Sujatha.**

Place : Bangalore Authorised Officer
Date : 21.5.2021 Canara Bank

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General public that our clients S ROOPA & K R PRADEEP intends to purchase house property bearing Municipal No.5 (earlier being portion of Municipal No.26, Site No.1282 and still earlier being portion of Survey No.12, situated at Sunkenahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk), situated at III Cross, Ashoknagar, Bengaluru, Ward No.154, PID No.51-42-5, measuring east to west (37¼ + 27)/2 feet, north to south (26+23)/2 feet, and bounded on East : Road, West : Private Property, North : Property of Savithri & Usha Nagesh, South : Private Property, from its owners **V R SRINIVAS & S P MALINI**. Any person/s asserting any kind of right, title, interest or claims of any sort towards the Sale transaction may file their objections or claims with documentary proof thereof with the undersigned within **SEVEN** days from the date of this publication, failing which our clients will proceed to complete the transaction without being liable for any claims put forth thereof.

RAJAGOPALA NAIDU, ADVOCATE
4, 50 feet road, Hanumanthnagar,
Bengaluru -19.
E-mail : rajnaidu16@yahoo.com
Phone : 9845012455.
Bengaluru, Date: 20/05/2021

QuoteExpress

THE SECRET OF GETTING AHEAD IS GETTING STARTED

MARK TWAIN

Muthoot Finance — Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd
Corporate Office : 1201 & 1202, 12th Floor, 'A' Wing, Lotus Corporate Park, Off. Western Express Highway, Goregaon (East), Mumbai – 400 063.

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. (MHIL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower/s (the "said Borrower"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice/s issued to them that are also given below.

In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower to pay to MHIL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest at 2% p.m. as detailed in the said Demand Notices, from the dates mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrowers. As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to MHIL by the said Borrowers respectively.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Loan Account No./Branch	Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Date of Demand Notice	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
1.	**Madhan / K Abhinaya/ Mani/ 053-05300745/ BANGALORE**	**Rs. 34,19,598 /-** (Rupees Thirty Four Lac Nineteen Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Eight Only)	22-Apr-21	South. Port.Of Site No.11 & Bbmp Prop No84/2& 84/3/11,Bbmp No.4094, 10Th Cross Andrahalli Village , Yashawanthapura Hobli Karnataka 560091

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to MHIL as aforesaid, MHIL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences.

The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of MHIL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made thereunder, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Place: Bangalore Sd/- Authorised Officer
Date : 21.05.2021 For Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd.

Canara Bank (केनरा बैंक)
Lavelle Road, Bangalore 560001.
e-mail:cb0887@canarabank.com Website: www.canarabank.com

To, Smt. VANDANA GOPAL SHINDE, W/O SHRI.GOPAL P SHINDE AGED ABOUT 56 YRS, Flat NO 246 & 256, RAJNI GANDHA GARDEN APARTMENT, 21ST VITTAL MALLAYA ROAD, BANGALORE- 560001.

1. Shri SANJEET VIJAYKUMAR RAUT, S/o VIJAY KUMAR, AGED 35 YRS, Flat NO 246 RAJANIGANDHA GARDEN APARTMENTS NO 21 VITTAL MALLYA ROAD BANGALORE – 560001.

2. Shri GOPAL P SHINDE, AGED 56YRS, Flat NO 246, RAJNI GANDHA APARTMENT, 21ST VITTAL MALLAYA ROAD, BANGALORE- 560001.

NOTICE ISSUED UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS & ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, Lavelle Road branch(hereinafter referred to as "the secured creditor"), appointed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (hereinafter referred as the "Act") do hereby issue this notice to you all as under:

That **Smt Vandana G Shinde** (hereinafter referred to as "the Borrower"1) has availed credit facility / facilities stated in the Schedule A hereunder and has entered into the security agreement/s in favour of the secured creditor. While availing the said financial assistance, you have expressly undertaken to repay the loan amount/s in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above mentioned agreements.

That **Sri SANJEET VIJAYKUMAR RAUT & GOPAL P SHINDE** (hereinafter referred to as "the Guarantors") have guaranteed the payments on demand of all moneys and discharge all obligations and liabilities owing or incurred to the secured creditor by the Borrower for credit facilities up to the limit of Rs 183.44 lakhs (Rupees One crore eighty three lakhs and forty four thousand only) with interest thereon.

You (The person mentioned in schedule B) are also entered in to agreements against the secured assets which are detailed in Schedule B hereunder.

However, from 29.11.2020 (month/year), the operation and conduct of the said financial assistance / credit facilities have become irregular. The books of account maintained by the secured assets shows that the liability of the Borrower towards the secured creditor as on date amounts to **Rs 1,95,55,938.34 (Rupees one crore ninety five lakh fifty five thousand nine hundred and thirty eight rupees and thirty four paise only)**, the details of which together with future interest rate are stated in Schedule C hereunder. It is further stated that the Borrower/Guarantor having failed to keep up with the terms of the above said agreement in clearing the dues of the secured creditor within the time given, and have been evasive in settling the dues. The operation and conduct of the above said financial assistance / credit facility/ies having come to a standstill and as a consequence of the default committed in repayment of principal debt/ installment and interest thereon, the secured creditor was constrained to classify the debt as Non Performing Asset (NPA) as on 31.03.2021 in accordance with the directives/guidelines relating to asset classification issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

The secured creditor through this notice brings to your attention that you the Borrower/Guarantors have failed and neglected to repay the said dues/ outstanding liabilities and hence hereby demand you under Section 13(2) of the Act, by issuing this notice to discharge in full the liabilities of the Borrower as stated in Schedule C hereunder to the secured creditor within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice. Further, it is brought to your notice that you are also liable to pay future interest at the rate of 2 % per month together with all costs, charges, expenses and incidental expenses with respect to the proceedings undertaken by the secured creditor in recovering its dues.

Please take note of the fact that if you fail to repay to the secured creditor the aforesaid sum of **Rs 1,95,55,938.34 (Rupees one crore ninety five lakh fifty five thousand nine hundred and thirty eight rupees and thirty four paise only)** together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs as stated above in terms of this notice under Section 13(2) of the Act, the secured creditor will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub-section (4)(a) and (b) of Section 13, the extract of which is given here below to convey the seriousness of this issue:

13(4) a - In case the Borrower fails to discharge liability in full within the period specified in sub-section (2), the secured creditor may take resources to one or more of the following measures to recover his secured debt, namely;

- Take possession of the secured assets of the Borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment of sale of realizing the secured Asset;
- Take over the management of the business of the Borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured Asset;

Provided that the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale shall be exercised only where the substantial part of the business of the Borrower is held as security for the debt;

Provided further that where the management of whole of the business or part of the business is severable, the secured creditor shall take over the management of such business of the Borrower which is relatable to the security for the debt; and under other applicable provisions of the said Act.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

You are also put on notice that in terms of Section 13(13) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed in **Schedule B** hereunder without obtaining written consent of the Bank. It is further brought to your notice that any contravention of this statutory injunction/ restraint as provided under the said Act, is an offence and if for any reason, the secured assets are sold or leased out in the ordinary course of business, the sale proceeds or income realized shall be deposited with the Bank. In this regard you shall have to render proper accounts of such realization/ income.

This notice of Demand is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which the Bank may have including further demands for the sums found due and payable by you.

This is without prejudice to any other rights available to us under the Act and/ or any other law in force.

Please comply with the demand under this notice and avoid all unpleasantness. In case of Non-compliance, further needful action will be resorted to, holding you liable for all costs and consequence.

SCHEDULE - A

[Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the Borrower] [Rs In Lakhs]

SL	Loan No	Nature of Loan/Limit	Date of sanction	Amt
1	0887256010382	OCC/ODBD	01/04/2019	Rs. 150.00
2	0887753000006	Working Capital Demand Loan	20/05/2020	Rs. 15.00
3	0887710000013	Covid Funded Interest Term Loan	01/09/2020	Rs. 9.94
4	0887742011786	Loan Against Valuable Security	05/02/2020	Rs. 7.00
5	0887101016246	Credit Card Overdue	--	Rs. 1.50

SCHEDULE –B
[Details of security assets]

S.No	Movable	Name of title Holder
1	CHOICE Policy No. 0061809015	Smt. Vandana Gopal Shinde
	IMMOVABLE	
1	Cont EMT of all that piece and parcel of property bearing Corporation No 21/98, Vittal Mallaya Road Bangalore the apartment bearing Flat No 246, (PID No 76-22- 21/98 on the 4th floor of the multi-storeyed building by name RAJNIGANDHA in the apartment Complex known as Garden Apartment measuring a super built up area of 1350 sq ft along with prorata Common area and facilities together with 0.448 % undivided interest in the land bearing Corporation No 21 Vittal Mallya Road formally known as Grant Road Bangalore measuring 383 sq ft with a coveted car parking space bearing No 91.	Mr. Gopal P Shinde

SCHEDULE – C
[Details of liability as on 15.05.2021]

Sl no	Loan no	Nature of loan/limit	Liability with interest as on date	Rate of interest
1	0887256010382	OCC/ODBD	Rs. 1,61,61,851.82	12.95%
2	0887753000006	Working Capital Demand Loan	Rs. 15,24,811.34	9.65%
3	0887710000013	Covid Funded Interest Term Loan	Rs. 10,39,006.40	11.50%
4	0887742011786	Loan Against Valuable Security	Rs. 6,77,576.00	14.45%
5	0887101016246	Credit Card Overdue	1,52,692.78	13.90%
	Total		1,95,55,938.34	

Date : 15-05-2021 Authorised Officer
Place : Bangalore Canara Bank

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
Peenya Indl Estate Udyami Branch
No. 252 , Surekha Complex
Bengaluru - 560 057
080-28390088(C) , 28395910(Gen)
e-mail: cb10455@canarabank.com

NOTICE TO BORROWER/GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of the **Canara Bank,** Peenya Indl Estate Udyami Branch, Bengaluru under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2)of Chapter-3 of the Security Interest(Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice/s on below mentioned date, calling upon the following borrower/s/ Guarantor/s to repay the dues within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

1) Name of the Borrowers: 1.M/s Sriram Home Appliances, Prop:-Sri Ashok B., No.72/73, Sriniketan, Sanjeevini Nagar, Opp; Mathrushree Kalyana Mantapa, Hegganahalli Main road, Bengaluru-560091 **2.Sri Ashok B,** S/o Babulal Ji, # 66,8th Cross, Gajanan Nagar, Hegganahalli Cross, Bengaluru-560091

Guarantor:- Smt.Pushpa, W/o Ashok B, # 66, 8th Cross,Gajanan Nagar, Hegganahalli Cross, Bengaluru-560091.

Sl. No	Loan Number	Nature of Loan/ Limit	Date of Sanction	Amount
1	04551400000333	Working Capital	06.08.2020	1,10,00,000.00
2	04557830000071	Mortgage Loan	11.04.2015	35,00,000.00
3	04557100000063	FITL	01.09.2020	5,71,393.00
4	04559160000186	GECL Loan	25.06.2020	20,00,000.00
5	173000014916	OTR	29.03.2021	26,29,000.00
6	173000014931	OTR/FITL	29.03.2021	8,81,000.00
	TOTAL			**2,05,81,393.00**

Total Liability as on 31.03.2021 :**Rs.1,86,60,331.54** (Rupees One Crore eighty Six lakhs sixty thousand three hundred thirty one & Paise fifty four only) + interest together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs.

Details of Security Assets : 1) Movables : Stock in Trade at

1.Head office at 72/73,Sriniketan,Sanjeevini nagar,opp;mathrushree kalyana mantapa, Hegganahalli main Road,Bengaliuru-560091,

2.Branch office at No.23/7,Near Venkateshwara Theatre,Magadi Main Road,Doddagollarahtti, Bengaluru-560091,

3.Godown at No, 92,7th Cross,Srigandhanagar, Near KTG School,Vishwaneedam post,Hegganahalli Bengaluru-560091.

4.Godown at No.14,2nd Cross, Hosahalli, Magadai main road, Doddagollarahatti, Bengaluru-560091, Book Debts Upto 90 days

Name of the Title deed holder: Sriram home appliances

2) Immovables: Residential property at No.66,BBMP Khatha No.1744/66, Assessment No.11/2, New PID No.071-W0381-36,8th Cross Road,Near Appollo public school,Gajanananagar, Hegganahalli cross, Sunkadakatte, Hegganahalli village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bengaluru-560091 owned by Sri Ashok B, measuring East to West 30 feet and north to South 40 feet and bounded by :-East by :-Site No.67, West by : Road, North by :Road, South by :Site No.81.

Name of the Title deed holder: Sri Ashok B,

Date of NPA: 30.03.2021 Demand Notice Date:06.04.2021

The above borrowers committed default of repayment of loans as above and the loans are duly secured by way of mortgage of property described as above and were classified as Non Performing Assets on various dates mentioned as above. The Bank issued Registered to all the above borrower/Guarantors under Section 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, (SARFAESI Act) calling upon them to repay the outstanding amount. We now call upon to pay the above mentioned liability with further interest and cost accrued till date within 60 days from the date of this notice, failing which, Bank will be constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of security interest as per Section 13(4) (a) to (b) of SARFAESI act 2002 against the secured assets given in the schedule above. The above borrower/s in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the above properties and restrained from dealing in term of Section 13 (13) of SARFAESI Act 2002 and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank for the accounts mentioned above with further interest and cost, expenses thereon.

Sd/-
Place : Bangalore Authorised Officer
Date : 19.05.2021 Canara Bank

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India
Gelayarabalaga Branch (558133)
410, AGBG Housing Society, Gelayarabalaga Layout, Chikkabanavara, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Bangalore,560090, Ph:- 080-22958280
Email:- cbsgelayarabalaga@unionbankofindia.com

DEMAND NOTICE
UNDER SEC.13 (2) SARFAESI Act 2002

Enforcement of security interest Action Notice-In connection with the credit facilities enjoyed by the following borrowers with in the branches mentioned herein below-classified as NPA

We have to inform you that you whose Name & Address mentioned here in below had availed following credit facilities from **Union Bank of India, Gelayarabalaga Branch (558133),** offering the property, mentioned here in below. Since you have failed to repay the loan amounts as agreed by you, your following mentioned account/s has/have been classified as Non Performing Assets [NPA] as on the date mentioned herein below. The individual notice has been also already sent to you demanding the due amount

1. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: 1) Mr. Bhaskar.C, 2) Mrs. Loganayaki B (Guarantor) # 115, "Loganayaki Nilayam", Khatha No. 586, 12 th Main road, 4th Block (Old 8th Cross), Peenya 1st stage, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru-560058

Name of Facility Amount Due

Facility	Limit Sanctioned	Running ledger O/s	Unrecovered interest	Total dues as on 30.03.2021
Housing Loan	11,50,000.00	10,72,578.40	44,448.83	11,17,027.23

Amount Outstanding : as on 30.03.2021, Rs.11,17,027.23 (Rupees Eleven lakh Seventeen thousand twenty seven rupees and twenty three paise) together with interest.

Classified as NPA as on. 30.06.2020 Demand Date : 19.04.2021

Description Of The Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of land located at Muncipal No.27 (Old property No.6 western portion) Khata No.586, 12th Main road, 4th Block (Old 8th cross), Peenya 1st stage, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru:560058 measuring 403 Sq.ft. and bounded as follows: East: Site No.6, West: R C Ashirvadam's Property, North: Site No 11, South: 16 ft road.

2. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: Mr. M R Devaraja, No 275, 19th Cross, Mutturayaswamy Layout, Pipeline Road, Sunkadkatte, Bangalore, Karnataka: 560091.

Name of Facility Amount Due

Facility	Limit Sanctioned	Running ledger O/s	Unrecovered interest	Total dues as on 30.03.2021
Housing Loan	40,00,000.00	39,79,688.44	1,96,702.00	41,76,390.44

Amount Outstanding : as on 30.03.2021, Rs.41,76,390.44 (Rupees forty one lakh seventy six thousand three hundred ninety rupees and forty four paise) together with interest.

Classified as NPA as on. 30.06.2020 Demand Date : 19.04.2021

Description Of The Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of Land located at Property No 41, Postal door No 338, Assessment No 84/10, Sy No 84/10, New PID No 071-W0196-3, 16th Cross Road, Muthuraya Swamy Badavane, Pipeline Road, Sunkadakatte, Srigandhada kaval Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru: 560091 measuring East to west: 40 Ft and North to South: 30 ft in all 1200 Sq ft and bounded as follows: East: Site No 38, West: Road, North: Site No 42, South: Site No 40.

If you fail to repay the aforesaid sum with interest and incidental expenses within 60 days from the date of this notice, Bank shall exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub section (4) of the section 13 of the SARFAESI Act. You are also put on notice that in terms of sub section 13 of section 13, you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed above without obtaining written consent of the Bank. This notice is without prejudice to the Banks rights to initiate such other action or legal proceedings as it deem necessary under any other applicable provisions of law. Your kind attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date : 20.05.2021 Sd/- Authorised Officer
Place : Bangalore Union Bank of India

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India
R. P. ROAD BRANCH,
Bunglow No:109, S.D.Road,
Secunderabad – 500 003.
Ph : 040-23468752/744

DEMAND NOTICE

Borrower : M/s. Priya Enterprises (Represented by proprietor Mrs. D. Priya), Flat No. 617, 6th floor, Chenoy Trade Centre Complex, Park Lane, Secunderabad – 500003. Guarantor: **Dendukuri Srinivas**, Plot No.5, Shaili Gardens, Yapral, Hyderabad.

Demand Notice dated : 15.04.2021

Sub : Enforcement of Security Interest Action Notice – OCC and Term Loan availed by you In connection with the credit facilities enjoyed By you with us – Classified as Non Performing Asset.

We have to inform you that your account no: 050513100001255 (OCC) and 050530100025185 (Term Loan) has been classified as NPA account as on 31.03.2021 pursuant to your default in making repayment of dues/instalment/interest. As on date a sum of Rs. 55,10,913.90/-(Rupees Fifty Five Lakhs Ten Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirteen and Ninety Paisa) is outstanding in your account / accounts as shown below

Nature of Facility	Sanction Amount	Amount Due
OCC	Rs.20,00,000.00	Rs.22,99,956.98
Term Loan	Rs.75,00,000.00	Rs.32,10,956.92
	Total	Rs.55,10,913.90

In spite of our repeated demands neither the borrower M/s.Priya Enterprises (Represented by proprietor Mrs.D.Priya) nor you have paid any amount towards the amount outstanding in the account and you have not discharged the liabilities.

This is therefore to call upon you in terms of section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act , 2002 to pay a sum of **Rs.55,10,913.90** (Rupees Fifty Five Lakhs Ten Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirteen and Ninty Paisa) together with interest at the rate of 10.90% p.a. with monthly rest/as per the terms and conditions of loan documents executed by you and discharge your liabilities in full within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice, failing which, we shall be constrained to enforce the following securities created by you in favour of the bank by exercising any or all of the rights given under the said Act.

Description of the Secured Assets: (Property in the name of D Srinivas) :

Schedule "A" Property:
All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing House No.130/A, BSK III stage, Uttarahalli Hobli, Banglore South Taluk and presently comes under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike. Corporation No.20, (Old No.14), situated 5th main Road, Ittamadu, Corporation Padmanabha Nagar Division No.55, 'B', New Katha No.55-491-20, measuring East to West: 60 Feet, North to South: 40 Feet, totally measuring 2400 sq Feet, and bounded on the: East: Road, West : Property No.4, North: Property now owned by Smt. Saroja (Constituting the western portion of the original property owned earlier by the vendor's Husband, South : Property No.6

Schedule "B" Property : A three bed rooms residential Apartment/Flat bears Flat No. G2, Ground Floor, in the multi storied building known as "Sri Lakshmi Residency (SLR)", with super built up area 1143 sq ft and bounded on: East : Open main Door/Corridor, West : Open to Sky, North : Open to Sky, South : Open to Sky.

Schedule "C" Property : Undivided share of right, title and interest in all that piece and parcel of the land described in the schedule "A" property with equivalent undivided share of 266.66 sft, including one open car parking area in the basement, with water, electricity and sewage amenities together with common areas such as passages, lobbies lifts, staircase and other areas of common use in Schedule "A" property.

1] Please note that if you fail to remit the dues within 60 days and if the Bank exercises all its rights under this Act and if the dues are not fully satisfied with the sale of the proceeds of the secured assets, we shall be constrained to take appropriate legal action against you in a court of law/ Debt Recovery Tribunal for recovery of the balance amount from you. You are hereby put on notice and your attention is invited to the provision of SARFAESI Act that as per section 13(8) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with rule 3(5) of security interest (Enforcement) (Amendment) Rules, 2002, you can tender the amount of dues of the secured creditor together with all costs, charge and expenses incurring by the secured creditor at any time before the date of publication of the notice for public auction or by inviting quotations or tender from public or by private treaty for transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale of the secured assets. Please also note that if the amount of dues together with the costs, charges and expenses incurred by the secured creditor is not tendered before the date of publication of notice for transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale of the secured assets by public auction or by inviting quotation or tender from public or private treaty as stated above, you shall not be further entitled to redeem the secured assets(s).

2] You are requested to note the as per section 13(13) of the Act, on receipt of this notice you are restrained / prevented from disposing of or dealing with the above securities except in the usual course of business without the consent of the Bank. Please also note that any violation of this section entails serious consequences.

3] Please note that as per Section 13(8) of the said Act, you may redeem the secured assets by remitting the amount demanded above together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred us at any time before the date of Publication of notice for public auction or inviting quotations or tenders from public or private treaty for transfer by way of lease, assignments or sale of the secured assets.

Place : Secunderabad. Asst. General Manager & Authorised Officer
Date : 19.05.2021 Union Bank of India

Education. Goals. And game changing decisions. edex Every Monday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

The structure for DRDO's proposed medical oxygen plant at Koppal Institute of Medical Sciences in Karnataka

First set of DRDO O_2 plants getting ready, to be commissioned

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

THE first set of three medical oxygen plants being readied in Karnataka on behalf of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), are likely to commissioned by this month-end. The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has completed work on two structures inside which they will be housed, while a third is getting ready. These plants will help generate oxygen in a cost effective way.

Speaking to *TNIE*, General Manager (Technical) and Project Director, NHAI, S P Somashekar said the concrete structures, spanning 600 sq feet, were completed at the ESI Hospital at Koppal Institute of Medical Sciences and ESI Hospital in Kalaburagi. "The third one at C V Raman Hospital in Bengaluru is getting ready and we will hand them over by this weekend," he said. "They will house an oxygen tank and compressor apart from electrical equipments. They can generate up to 1,000 litres of oxygen per minute, " he added.

A DRDO spokesperson told *TNIE* that medical oxygen plant technology is being used, which has been developed by DRDO for generating oxygen onboard its light combat aircraft, Tejas. "The system can cater to 190 patients at a flow rate of 5 litres per minute and charge 195 cylinders per day."

Though it was announced that 500 such plants were to be readied within three months across the country, the actual number could be lesser with non-availability of sites cited as a reason, said a source.

State Deputy Director of Medical Health, Dr Selvaraj said, "A total of 31 pressure swing adsorption technology plants have been approved as of now. They will totally produce 22,500 litres of oxygen per minute."

Fifth Oxygen Express chugs into K'taka

The fifth Oxygen Express entered the inland container depot in Whitefield on Thursday carrying 160 tonnes of the gas, the highest such consignment brought in a single train so far. Altogether eight cryogenic cylinders carried 20 tonnes each. According to release, the train reached ICD at 1.05 am from Tatanagar in Jharkhand.

NAIRS BAG ONE-THIRD OF KERALA CABINET PIE, DALITS GET RAW DEAL

Only 5 Ezhavas in team, including CM Pinarayi, though LDF has 26 MLAs from community

B SREEJAN @T'PURAM

IT is an open secret that the Nair Service Society and its general secretary G Sukumaran Nair wished for a change of guard in the state in the assembly elections. On the polling day, Sukumaran Nair gave a clear hint of the same, prompting senior CPM leaders led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to take a critical position of the caste organisation which had been practising an 'equal distance' policy in the state politics for long.

Even after the poll results, the war of words continued between CPM leaders and the NSS general secretary, but CPM leaders took extreme caution that the dispute didn't cross the border and hurt the community. When the second Pinarayi Vijayan cabinet was sworn in on Thursday, one of the most satisfied social groups in the state would be Nairs. There are seven ministers from the community in the 21-member cabinet, apart from the speaker and chief whip. Among the total cabinet-rank posts, representation of Nair community is 37.5% while the population of Nairs in Kerala is estimated to be around 12.5%.

Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan takes oath administered by Governor Arif Mohammad Khan at the swearing-in ceremony in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday

While CPM assigned four ministers and the speaker from Nair community, CPI has three Nair ministers out of its four.

Chief whip N Jayaraj is the nominee of KC(M), a traditional Christian party which has two Hindu MLAs out of its five this time.

The increase in the number of Nair ministers is at the cost of Ezhava community which had more representation in the last cabinet.

There are only five Ezhavas in the cabinet, including CM Pinarayi, though the LDF has 26 Ezhava MLAs. Ezhavas, who form 23% of the population, is the biggest caste group among Hindus.

Two Keralites among 37 dead in ONGC barge capsize

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kalpetta/Kottayam

TWO Keralites are among the 37 people who died after Pappa (P305), an oil field accommodation barge of the ONGC ,sunk midsea as high tidal waves unleashed by Cyclone Tauktae smashed into the Mumbai High Oilfield.

According to sources, Jomish Joseph Punnamthanam, 35, a resident of Eachome in Panamaram panchayat of Wayanad district and Sasin Ismail, 29, of Arinjidath house at Chirackadavu panchayat in Kottayam are the Keralites who have died in the incident.

Relatives of Jomish have received a confirmation message from the ONGC. Jomish was an employee of Boustead Control and Electrics.

"He along with his wife and children is settled in Delhi. He went to Mumbai on April 5 to join duty at the oil field. We received a message from him on Saturday, after which there was no communication. On Wednesday we saw the news of accident and tried to contact his colleagues and company officials. On Thursday morning we received official confirmation about his death from the company. My son was planning to visit us by May end after his work in Mumbai," said Joseph, father of Jomish. His wife is working as a nurse in Delhi.

Sasin Ismail, 29, was working as project engineer in P-305 barge, which reportedly sank in turbulent sea as Cyclone Tauktae set off huge tidal waves. Sasin's relatives received a communication from Afcons Infrastructure Ltd confirming his death.

83-year-old with comorbidities beats Covid

S V KRISHNA CHAITANYA @ Chennai

WHEN 83-year-old T D Nandagopal, a resident Chennai suburb Kattupakkam, contracted coronavirus in February, his family was deeply worried. For, infected patients in his age group had little chance of survival. To boot, the octogenarian had comorbidities such as hypertension and diabetes. He had also undergone a heart surgery a few years ago, making him a high-risk patient.

However, Nandagopal battled it out and returned to his normal lifestyle. "I had all the typical Covid symptoms. I lost appetite and had severe cough, tiredness, and body pain. I immediately got tested and found to be Covid positive. I did not panic. I was lucky to get a bed at King's Institute, the best in class for Covid treatment in Chennai," he told *TNIE*.

Nandagopal recovered fully after 10 days of hospitalisation. A former employee of Food Corporation of India, he says more than the virus, it's the panic that is claiming lives.

Think +ve

Nandagopal was given 8-10 injections a day. "The doctors and nurses were supportive and advised me to think positive. I did basic exercises like walking and meditated a bit to keep myself calm," he told TNIE

The hospitalisation days were not easy, though. "I could see patients in my adjacent beds panicking and even succumbing to the disease. One patient from Andhra, with whom I used to regularly interact, died. But I still did not lose hope," he said. He took medication and food properly and was discharged within days.

The steady support of his family also helped him. "My sons, daughters and grandchildren made video calls daily, which helped beat the feeling of loneliness," he added.

Averring that coronavirus can be beaten, Nandagopal said, "I keep telling my family and friends to take adequate precaution and not to panic, if infected."

'VILLAGES POSTPONED WEDDINGS, FESTIVALS TO CURB VIRUS SPREAD'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ANGANWADI worker Maramma has visited all the houses explaining to them about the Pancha Sutras like maintaining social distance, sanitising/washing hands, wearing of masks, with an appeal to practice it rigorously. Now, with apprehensions about a third wave, she has started tracking children to ensure that they maintain good health.

The local panchayat comprising of village heads from all communities too has played a part, asking everyone to adopt standard norms like using face masks, maintaining social distance, hygiene, and not having more than 30 people at weddings or funerals. They have even requested farm labourers to stay back at home for 20 days and decided not to entertain or come in contact with people from outside. "We are not sending villagers to harvest ginger at the farms owned by people from the neighbouring state," said advocate Nagaraj.

Panchayat Development Officer Mahadevaswamy said they have hired an autorickshaw to regularly make announcements and educate people on Covid-19 norms, the benefits of vaccination and also MNREGA scheme. "We have achieved 95 per cent vaccination among those aged above 45, other than making use of masks mandatory. Our efforts have yielded fruit in keeping these villages free from the virus. We are now lining up the youths for vaccination," he added.

A villager sprays disinfectant around houses at Uchagani village in Mysuru

Chandrashekar, a resident of Uchagani, which has a population of about 500 people, said they have even postponed weddings and festivals as their priority is to protect people from the virus. The villagers of Katur, which has a population of about 1,500, point out that many of their relatives and friends in neighbouring villages are keen to know about the initiatives taken to remain Covid-free.

Ambedkar Sangha president Shivamurthy said that they have also adopted novel measures like just one or two members of the village taking care of the essential supplies for all the families in the entire village instead of members of every family heading out, and restricting the entry of outsiders. "We have appealed to villagers to avoid visiting their relatives or friends for the next couple of weeks so that their families are safe back home," he added.

The villagers have made minor lifestyle changes like ensuring that there are no gatherings near shops or at street corners. The collective efforts seem to have made a huge difference in handling the pandemic.

Veggie growers caught between Covid crisis, rain

SUNIL PATIL @ Belagavi

VEGETABLE growers in Belagavi taluk continue to be in a fix for the consecutive second year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The farmers who have grown chilli, carrot, coriander, cabbage, brinjal, ladies finger have no choice left than abandoning harvest plans to avoid losses.

On one hand, vegetable growers ARE in a dilemma about how to sell the ready to harvest crops since the lockdown has been imposed and dip in demand for the yield and on the other, heavy rains caused by cyclone Tauktae have damaged the leftover crops in Belagavi taluk.

Since the inter-state transportation of vegetables has also decreased for the past two weeks due to lockdown in many states, the demand has also fallen.

Farmers uprooting chilli plants from their field in Belagavi

Thus, the vegetable prices also tanked. Amid this, untimely rains due to the cyclone has damaged cucumber, coriander and other leafy vegetables. Fed up, a farmer in Basavan Kudachi village uprooted well-grown chilli plants on his land. The cucumber yield is now under water and rotting. Farmers who grew coriander are feeding it to cattle.

Some farmers, who have grown cabbage, carrot and brinjal, have started running tractor over the same as it will turn into a natural compost.

CRIME PATROL

Court rejects bail plea of pharmacist

Bengaluru: A city court has rejected bail to a pharmacist who was caught attempting to sell Remdesivir in the black market. Somala Raju Vinod (33), who worked in a medical store attached to a hospital in Kothnur, was arrested by the CCB police in Puttenahalli police station limits on April 22. Vinod had allegedly tried to sell the vaccine through another person for Rs 20,000 per vial. While rejecting the bail on Wednesday, 58th Additional City Civil and Sessions Court Judge Kasanappa Naik said, "The petitioner has misused the grim situation. At this stage, if the petitioner is released on bail, it will convey a wrong message to society."

Illegal vax: Cops nab doc, homemaker

Bengaluru: Annapurneshwari Nagar police busted an illegal vaccination racket and arrested two women on Thursday. The accused are Dr Pushpitha (25), who works at a PHC in Manjunatha Nagar, and Prema (34), a resident of ITI Layout. Police said they received tip-off that people were receiving Covishield illegally at Prema's house. They raided the house and nabbed the accused. "Dr Pushpitha misused the vials supplied to the PHC and gave them to Prema illegally. They informed their contacts that the vaccine was available at Prema's house and would be administered after 4 pm," said DCP (West) Dr Sanjeev M Patil.

69 DOCTORS DIED IN K'TAKA DUE TO COVID

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

The Indian Medical Association has said that eight doctors have succumbed during the second Covid-19 wave in Karnataka. A total of 329 doctors have died of the disease across the country in the second wave.

"In Karnataka, 61 doctors lost their lives to the infection in the first wave. In the second wave, some of them died as they could not get access to beds and treatment on time ... they are corona warriors, who were exposed to the infection, while treating patients," said Dr Srinivasa S, PRO, IMA, Bengaluru and Chairperson, IMA standing committee for child health.

While one PG student from Dakshina Kannada succumbed to Covid in the second wave, two doctors from Hubballi also died. And, one doctor each from Channapatna, Chamarajanagar, Vijayapura, Kalaburagi and Mysuru also succumbed.

Dr Srinivasa said after the IMA state branch wrote to the government seeking reservation of beds for health workers, 10% of the beds in each district was reserved to them.

Stalin to Prez: Accept suggestion to release 7 Rajiv case convicts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

THREE months after Governor Banwarilal Purohit forwarded the State Cabinet's recommendation -- for remission of sentence of the seven convicts in the former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi assassination case -- to President Ram Nath Kovind, Chief Minister **MK Stalin**, on Thursday, wrote to the latter urging him to accept the same.

Stating that majority of the political parties in the State have been requesting for an immediate release of the seven convicts as they have been incarcerated for about three decades, Stalin said their release is also the will of the people of Tamil Nadu. He noted that the death sentence given to the four convicts, including Nalini, was commuted to life imprisonment.

Further, on September 9, 2018, the State had recommended to the Governor for remission of remainder of the sentence for all the seven convicts -- S Nalini, Murugan, Santhan, AG Perarivalan, Jayakumar, Robert Payas and P Ravichandran -- and their early release.

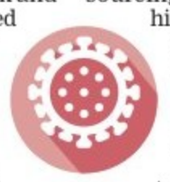
2 PHC doctors, staff held for issuing fake Covid reports in Bengaluru

ENS @Bengaluru

A gang of four, including two doctors, have been arrested for issuing fake Covid-negative certificates and also selling Remdesivir injections in the black market.

The arrested have been identified as Dr Shekhar B, Dr Prajwala, Sai Kishore, a swab collectors and Mohan Y, a staffer from a primary healthcare centre.

A senior police officer said that based on a tip-off, Satish G, a constable attached to Halasuru Gate police station on Wednesday posed as a patient and approached Kishore to get a negative report. Kishore demanded Rs 500 and a copy of his Aadhaar card. Later, Kishore asked Satish to meet him near Bannappa Park and was caught red-handed while handing over the certificate signed by Dr Shekar.



Preliminary investigations reveal that Kishore worked as a swab collector at a PHC in Chamarajapete and was in collusion with Dr Shekhar, a medical officer at the PHC centre, who was issuing the certificates.

During the investigation, police found from CCTV footage that Dr Shekhar was selling Remdesivir vials at Rs 25,000 each. When he was grilled, Shekhar confessed that he was sourcing the injections from his colleague Dr Prajwala from the PHC, who used to steal them.

All the four accused have been booked under the Disaster Management Act, Drugs Control Act, for cheating, and two separate cases have been registered against them. The police have recorded the statements of the accused and they have revealed some more names who are part of the gang.

Districts have to provide list of unused ventilators

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

MEANWHILE, Dr S Sachidanand, vice-chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, who is heading the State Death Audit Committee, said daily analysis will help the officials pinpoint where they are going wrong and why it is important for patients to report symptoms early. If the majority of deaths are due to nonavailability of hospital beds or ICU care, then the State Government will know which districts need more attention in terms of infrastructure - both human resources and medical equipment - an official explained.

Meanwhile, the state has also decided that each district has to provide a list of unused ventilators so that they can be given to bigger hospitals and also to private hospitals which have an MoU with the government. The government had recently come in for flak for reducing testing numbers. To ensure early detection, the state will now conduct door-to-door surveillance by booth/ward/village task force teams with the help of field level health care workers and NGOs present in the respective area and test all the symptomatic patients with Rapid Antigen Test kits. They will also immediately isolate such persons and test their family members and high-risk contacts to prevent the spread.

EDITORIAL

"Positivity has become a kind of international pocket psychology. This has now reached the point where seriously ill people are expected to 'learn from their illness' and ideally emerge as a stronger person"

Svend Brinkmann

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

NEW TEAM, BIGGER CHALLENGES FOR PINARAYI 2.0

Pinarayi 2.0 is officially in. Kerala's Left Front that won a historic second consecutive term in power has chosen to entrust the governance of the state to a team that is almost entirely new—save for three ministers, including the CM. If the Pinarayi Vijayan government's last tenure was about dealing with a series of tough challenges—from back-to-back floods to viral outbreaks to the financial crisis—the task of governance is not going to get any easier this time around too as the challenges have only grown in enormity. While the ruling front's bold decision to try out new hands in the ministry deserves to be appreciated, and should be seen as an example for other parties and formations, the new administration could sorely miss the services of some able ministers who contributed greatly to the credibility and image of the previous government.

There are two concerns the new government cannot simply ignore at the moment—the prevailing health-cum-humanitarian crisis and the state's dire financial situation. Kerala has a new health minister in the form of a young Veena George, but she has the big shoes of K K Shailaja to fill and that itself could prove daunting enough. On her has fallen the responsibility of navigating Kerala through the debilitating impact of a deadly second wave of the pandemic and then preparing it for an imminent third wave. New Finance Minister K N Balagopal will have to start where his predecessor Thomas Isaac left off. Dealing with an economy characterised by shrinking revenues and galloping expenditures, Balagopal will find the going tough. While he must immediately focus his attention on gathering resources for a demanding Covid fight and managing the impact on the economy, his long-term task will be to pull the state out of the debt trap it has fallen into.

The coming days will see Team Pinarayi tested in many ways. Its inexperienced ministers will be compared with their illustrious predecessors. It's the performance of the last five years that won the government a second term. The CM, given his experience, would know that he cannot rest on his laurels and needs his team to do well so that his second term doesn't slide on the performance scale. He must ensure his new team doesn't fail.

THE CURIOUS CASE OF ODISHA'S DEATH DATA

Amid the raging second wave and vociferous discussions over lives claimed by the virus, Odisha presents a curious picture. The proclaimed case fatality rate (CFR) in the state is not only among the lowest in India, but more astoundingly, has gone down considerably from the first wave. Is it a medical miracle or a classic case of data management? Hovering around 0.4%, Odisha's CFR is lower than almost all states barring Kerala or Mizoram. In the last fortnight, the state's CFR averaged a mere 0.16%. The state reported its highest daily Covid fatality of 25 on Thursday. Before that, the maximum was 22 on three occasions. The total Covid deaths recorded in Odisha, currently, stand at 2,403, which include last year's numbers too. In the second wave, the state has officially reported only 485 fatalities.

For a state that has been consistently reporting about 10,000 cases daily for a while, the CFR is too low to be true. States like Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Punjab—with as many daily infections or lower—report much higher deaths, which suggests something is not right about the numbers dished out on a daily basis in Odisha. But the dead do not lie. The pyres raging in the funeral grounds day and night, the grieving families in the cremation grounds, they don't lie either. Nor do crematorium staff, their bodies and minds exhausted and overwhelmed from watching the flames consume the deceased hour after hour. Across the state, as districts scramble for new cremation grounds to accommodate the mounting bodies, the government's numbers make little sense. What does the under-reporting achieve? Nothing, because, eventually, it is all going to reflect in death certificates and Registrar General of India data. On the other hand, honesty helps. It builds confidence and trust among people that the government acknowledges their loss. It also aids the medical community, researchers and experts prepare a road map for a better strategy when the crisis comes calling next time. The raging pandemic has put governments not just through a gruelling test of ability but also one of character. It would pay to be transparent to the very people they serve.

States that showed greater ownership often relied on technical advice and critically reviewed the preparedness in ensuring better management of the pandemic response

WHAT IS THE RIGHT MODEL FOR INDIA'S COVID RESPONSE?

DR GIRIDHARA R BABU

Professor of epidemiology at the Indian Institute of Public Health-Bengaluru, PHFI

AMIT BANDRE

We often use the diversity of India as an explanatory variable when discussing either operational challenges or shortcomings. However, diverse operational and leadership models might be a great strength to assess the tactical and strategic implementation of the pandemic response against the current challenges. What we need is the convergence of the different models to inspire and encourage shared learning. Although there is no one right model, India is better served by the assorted elements of the diverse and yet unique features that can guide us what to do mostly as we move out of the second wave and avoid the mistakes committed by others. Here is one such assorted set with the acronym MODEL.

Mortality reduction: The best model is one that focuses on preventing the most deaths. Setting up jumbo ICUs during the first wave and not dismantling them after that was instrumental in reducing the mortality during the second wave in Mumbai. Setting up ICUs in district hospitals and piping for oxygenation was done in the states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu during the first wave. Similarly, oxygenation generation plants were installed in the tribal district of Nandurbar in Maharashtra and also in Kerala with the efforts of the Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organisation (PESO). These are proactive models.

Ownership: States that showed greater ownership often relied on technical advice and critically reviewed the preparedness in ensuring better management of the Covid-19 response. Setting up and relying on the advice of technical advisory committees or state task forces has been implemented successfully in Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, among others. The essence of ownership by the government is to ensure that people and communities are empowered, they are in charge, and they have control over their participation and destiny. This process is bidirectional and requires trust-building through active engagement of the community. So far, such models are seen in Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, wherein community engagement and ownership have been instrumental in Covid-19 response. Involving the panchayati raj institutions has been the hallmark of Karnataka.

Data integrity and transparency: India does not rank well in assuring either the content or the quality of the data collected regarding cases and more so for deaths. Lest we forget, India has been lauded as a world leader for the efforts in the polio eradication (PE) programme, which was built on strong surveillance, transparent data reporting and meaningful response aided by an effective partnership of the technical wing of the ministry with the World Health Organization. All the decisive actions in the PE programme were led by data and data alone. This is a model we need now to assist the leadership.

Equity at the heart: Protecting the interests of vulnerable persons, including minorities, should be at the soul of programme planning. All of India's vaccination programmes for children have had social mobilisation strategies. It is time the country has a national vaccination policy with a major focus on inoculating vulnerable people. In addition, there are several problems, including stigma and fear, which prevent the vulnerable from seeking testing or treatment when they are affected by Covid-19. Civil society volunteer groups are helping in Karnataka at a crucial time.

> To create an enabling environment for shared learning, the Covid-19 response should be institutionalised with equal participation of the states, civil society, researchers and community, among other stakeholders

Leadership: The objective indicators such as the global health security index do not include leadership, which, according to me, is something critical to the overall pandemic response. This trait has been the single most defining element of every country and state's success. Nobody imagined that India would go into nationwide lockdown when the country had only 500 cases. Despite unintended negative consequences, the comprehensive and quick response in the form of a nationwide lockdown bought us time to prepare well. It resulted in the least number of deaths compared to anywhere else in the world. Such hard decisions can be taken only by decisive leadership. When cases started surging in the Dharavi slum, most people in the world feared a carnage of sorts. The leadership in Mumbai is an exemplary model of how to steer from the front and the campaign was called "chase the virus". While the rest of the country was figuring out how to tackle the pandemic, Kerala was far ahead in invoking the Epidemic Diseases Act and setting up protocols to mitigate the spread. Similarly, setting up technology-based apps to quarantine with the help of real-time data and the use of an evidence-based approach to tackle the first wave was the hallmark of Karnataka's leadership.

To create an enabling environment for shared learning, the Covid-19 response should be institutionalised with equal participation of the states, civil society, researchers and community, among other stakeholders. A test not done is an opportunity not provided to live for the vulnerable anywhere. Hence, a multisectoral, inclusive and equity-promoting approach addressing all social aspects is as necessary as reducing the mortality related to Covid-19. Can we have a diverse model that inspires every state, even other countries, equally with the single objective of the well-being of everyone?

(epigiridhar@gmail.com)

POSITIVITY: NOT MIND BUT HEART SHOULD BE AT WORK

RAM MADHAV

Member, Central Executive, RSS, & Member, Governing Board, India Foundation

An obese gentleman walked into a restaurant and ordered 12 *vadas*, a South Indian snack. Looking at his overweight body, a companion asked him if it was right to have so many *vadas*. The gentleman replied that he was a 'positive thinker' and when he eats the *vadas*, he only looks at the holes in them. As a positive thinker, he believed he was only eating 12 empty holes.

Positivism has many shades. Nonchalance and escape from responsibility is one such shade. Fatalism is another. Some Hindus had a distorted understanding of Karma. If you want to hide your inadequacies, attribute it to Karma—fate, they believed. In ancient Western societies, fate played an important role in certain philosophical schools. For example, the Stoics believed that both good and bad were created by God and one should simply accept everything as divinely ordained fate. The bed bugs were there to 'awaken us out of our sleep'; the mice were there to 'encourage humans to be tidy', the Stoics argued. Chrysippus of Soli, a Greek Stoic philosopher, argued that it would have been impossible for good to exist without evil. Seneca, the Roman Stoic philosopher, presented the fate theory for human suffering by arguing, "God has deemed us worthy instruments of his purpose to discover how much human nature can endure." The philosopher Zeno of Citium from Hellenistic Greece was considered the father of Stoicism. He was once flogging a slave who had stolen some goods. "But I was fated to steal," the slave protested. "Yes, and to be beaten too," Zeno responded. Acceptance of pain and pleasure as one's fate was seen as the path to tranquility by the Stoics. Therein lies the fatalist shade of positivity.

But human suffering calls for not a fatalist, nonchalant version of positivity but empathy and remorse. It is difficult for someone who has lost his near and dear ones to a pandemic or some other disaster to have positivity. For him, empathy and hope are the desiderium. Franklin Roosevelt became the President of America in 1933, when the country was reeling under severe depression. Roosevelt started 'fireside talks' to address his countrymen. The first two words of his initial fireside chat were 'My friends'. Before him, no President ever deviated from formal address. But Roosevelt's empathy-filled two words had instantly connected him with the suffering masses of his country. "Confidence and courage are the essentials of success in carrying out our plan. Let us unite in banishing fear," the 32nd US President told his countrymen. Confidence, courage, plan and banishing fear are the magic words that enthralled his audience. His closing words were "Together, we cannot fail." This was another significant shade of positivity.

"If you cannot cry, you are weak" is one of the lessons of psychology. Empathy, a quality associated with the heart, is essential at the time of suffering. When human tragedy of humongous proportions strikes, like the one mankind is passing through at the moment, positivity as a smug quality of the mind that demands that you always say 'yes' and 'everything is hunky dory' is not what people need. Positivity as a by-product of empathy and hope is called for in such moments. Not the mind, but the heart should be at work. "In small matters trust the mind, in large ones the heart," said Sigmund Freud, the father of modern psychology.

> When tragedy of humongous proportions strikes, like the one mankind is passing through now, positivity as a smug quality of the mind that demands that you always say 'yes' and 'everything is hunky dory' is not what people need. Positivity as a byproduct of empathy and hope is called for in such moments

Listening to the lectures by eminent saints and scholars on 'positivity' recently, I was struck by these thoughts. The speakers focused on hope and empathy more than the fashionable advocacy of positive thinking. A brief three-minute address by Azim Premji, the founder of Wipro, and a detailed address of Mohan Bhagwat, the chief of the RSS, stood out distinctively in this regard. Premji emphasised on truth and science as the basis of mitigating human suffering at the hour of the pandemic, while Bhagwat underscored the need for remorse, empathy and confidence. All speakers stressed on the need for unity as well.

"It is difficult," said Bhagwat about positivity at the very beginning of his speech, admitting that what those victims of the pandemic need more than positivity was empathy and support. Bhagwat and other speakers spoke about keeping the mind strong. Bhagwat depended on Winston Churchill to drive home the point of strong mind. He referred to a quote on Churchill's desk that read: "There is no pessimism in this office. We are not interested in the possibilities of defeat. They don't exist." Talking about the need for courage and steely resolve, Bhagwat ended his speech by again turning to Churchill: "Success is not final; failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts."

Incidentally, the new discourse on positivity focuses more on these qualities of courage and standing up. Four years ago, when the Buckingham University in England declared itself as "Europe's first Positive University", a new debate exploded on the issue of positivity. The whole spectrum of positive psychology, which had become a big industry for business leaders and politicians since its beginning in the late 1990s, came under serious scrutiny. What about pessimist thinkers like Nietzsche and Freud? Will they be banished from the curriculum? Can happiness be made compulsory through positivity?

Danish philosopher and psychologist Svend Brinkmann authored the book Stand Firm as an antidote to compulsory happiness theories of positivity and self-help. The secret to a happier life doesn't lie in forced positivity and suppression of emotions, but in standing up firm and getting a foothold in turbulent life, Brinkmann argues in his book.

That was largely the mantra given by the speakers at the 'Positivity Unlimited' series of lectures—be firm, take control of your life and move on with hope and confidence.

(Views expressed are personal)

(rammadhav@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Cooperate during Covid

Both the BJP and TMC should give up revengeful actions (*End the cycle of vendetta politics in West Bengal*, May 20). The Centre and state should cooperate at least during Covid.

Palanivel D, Koradacheri, Tiruvarur

Lesson not learnt by BJP

The Bengal Governor's role in providing permission to the CBI to arrest TMC ministers in the Narada scam is partisan. Further, Mukul Roy and Suvendu Adhikari, now in the BJP, were not held despite their alleged involvement. The BJP is not ready to learn a lesson even after its defeat.

Ramiah Govindaraj, email

Vaccination for attendants?

This is with reference to the news report *Attendants allowed only for the critically-ill* (May 20). It has been noticed that attendants are not allowed as they might become superspreaders. The government can take special steps to ensure attendants are vaccinated. This will reduce the chances of spread through them and they can also be allowed to stay with the patients.

Lakshmi Narayana N N V, Chennai

The real heroes

It is unfortunate that India has lost at least 269 doctors including eminent cardiologist Dr K K Aggarwal during the second wave of Covid. They are the real heroes. Doctors and others in the medical fraternity perhaps need to take more precautions to avoid contracting Covid while on duty and as mentioned by Dr Aggrawal in his last video, the show must go on, to save the lives of patients.

S V N Vijayendra, Hyderabad

TN panel commendable

This is with reference to *Welcome all-party panel in Tamil Nadu* (May 20). The health minister in the previous AIADMK ministry Dr C Vijayabaskar too has been included. CM M K Stalin's move is commendable and worthy of being emulated by the Centre and other states.

V Manilyer, Coimbatore

Cabinet ignored

This is with reference to *Cabinet pushing papers in the shadow of PMO* (May 16). It's a matter of serious concern that the Cabinet has been ignored by the PMO when it comes to Covid response. Kudos to the newspaper for pointing this out.

T R Krishna Chandran, Thrissur

We should not interfere

India should not interfere in Myanmar or involve herself in democratic struggles there (*Democracy in Myanmar and India's dilemma*, May 18). At best we can contain an inflow of refugees, as this can pose problems for us later.

Dharmarajan A K, Thalassery

Don't engage with Hamas

This is with reference to *Should India recognise Hamas?* (May 19). Hamas has proved time and again that it is the wrecker-in-chief of the peace process in the Middle East. India should not be in any way involved with the terror outfit.

Vishweshwara Bhat, Mangaluru

Find a way to coexist

The errors committed by the Allied forces after the Second World War cannot be easily undone now. The Western countries and Arab nations as well need to realise the fait accompli and honestly try to persuade both sides, Hamas and Israel, to find a way to coexist.

Capt Raju Mathai (Retd), Kochi

Advice from the past

When going through old items, I found a page of this newspaper with a write-up by A Surya Prakash titled *Cleansing electoral politics* dated 24 October 2017. On the same page, there was a quote by American physician and former World Bank head Jim Yong Kim: "Every dollar that a corrupt official or a corrupt business person puts in their pocket is a dollar stolen from a pregnant woman who needs healthcare... or from communities that need water, roads and schools." This is especially relevant in the current times considering the lack of beds for Covid patients and the failure of the governments to prevent the crisis.

Edmond Rayen, Thoothukudi

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Pawan Khera @Pawankhera
India speaks through her elected representatives, through her media, through her civil society. India's PM indulges in PR monologues. He refuses to listen to India

Gaurav Bhatia @gauravbh
There is a competition among the opposition parties, especially in Congress and Aam Aadmi Party, who can malign India the most

Capt.Amarinder Singh @capt_amarinder
I am concerned about increasing cases of Mucor Mycosis in patients suffering or recovering from #Covid19. We have already notified it under the Epidemic Diseases Act

In virtual interaction with officials of badly affected areas, Modi emphasises need for dynamic strategy against mutating virus

PM asks district administrators to be innovative

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday called on district administrators to work in an innovative manner to make villages Covid free, stressing on dynamic strategies against the mutating virus.

In his second interaction with district magistrates of districts with high caseloads, the Prime Minister put emphasis on spreading messages on following Covid-appropriate behaviour. He told the officials in the presence of chief ministers to devise strategies in a rural and urban specific way.

"Every epidemic has taught us the importance of continuous innovation and change in our ways of dealing with it. Methods and strategies in dealing with the pandemic should be dynamic, as the virus is expert in mutation and changing the format. Virus mutation is concerning the youth and children," remarked the Prime Minister, adding that it's crucial to boost vaccination drive.

The district magistrates, on their part, shared their experience during the video conference. The officials mentioned that local administrations are using technology for real-time monitoring and capacity building. They also mentioned the steps taken to enhance public participation and awareness in their districts.

"Coronavirus has made the work more demanding and challenging. In the midst of these new challenges, new strategies and solutions are needed. Over the past few days, active cases have started to reduce in the country. But the challenge remains as long as this infection is present even on a minor scale," added the Prime Minister.

Modi noted that the experiences and feedback of the district administrations help in framing practical and effective policies. "Vaccination strategy is also being pushed forward by incorporating suggestions from states and various stakeholders at all levels. There's a need to use local experience and work together as a country," stressed the Prime Minister.

He said wastage of a single vaccine means not being able to provide necessary security to an individual. The Prime Minister also emphasised the priority of easing the lives of citizens while saving lives.

Modi pat on the back for village in Maharashtra

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mumbai

PM Narendra Modi appreciated Maharashtra's Hiware Bazar as an ideal village model to defeat Covid with the participation of villagers, during his meeting with district magistrates. With Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray, Ahmednagar district collector Dr Rajendra Bhosale attended the virtual meeting.

Modi appreciated the work of this village and said this should be replicated in other parts. Popatrao Pawar, sarpanch of Hirave Bazar, told this daily that in the last 20 days, there has been no single Covid case in the village. He said they focused on forming an experts' team, primary antigen tests for those with symptoms followed by RT-PCR if found negative, quarantining and vaccination.

Ahmednagar district is a Covid hotspot in Maharashtra, but the Hiware Bazar model has been replicated in other districts as well.

Declare black fungus an epidemic: Govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

THE Centre has asked states to notify mucormycosis, a deadly fungal disease reported in many Covid-19 patients during or after the infection, under the Epidemic Disease Act, 1897, making it mandatory for hospitals to report every case.

In a letter to states on Wednesday, Lav Agarwal, joint secretary in the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said that all government and private health facilities, medical colleges should follow guidelines for screening, diagnosis, management of this disease issued by the ministry and ICMR.

The Centre also said it should be mandatory for all these facilities to report all suspect and confirmed cases of the disease to the health department in their states through the district-level chief medical officers and subsequently, to the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme of the Union health ministry.

An health expert examines test reports of a patient to detect black fungus at NSCB Medical College and Hospital in Jabalpur on Thursday | PTI

Rajasthan, on Wednesday, had become the first state to do so, after recording over 100 cases of the disease, which is fatal for nearly 50% of patients and causes severe damage to the brain, face, lungs and eyes.

In most states in India, the disease is being reported in alarming numbers in Covid patients during or after the infection, as it gets triggered by the use of steroids, a life-saving treatment for severe and critically ill coronavirus patients.

It is also seen in Covid patients who are on oxygen, probably due to impure oxygen-contaminated with mucor reaching the lungs because of non-adherence of safety measures. Doctors believe Covid patients with a history of diabetes or those with compromised immunity are particularly susceptible to this disease that often needs immediate advanced surgery. Removal of eye or eyes is also often required in order to save lives. The problem has worsened due to shortage of amphotericin B, an injection to treat serious fungal diseases.

There is a white fungus threat in India as well

Unconfirmed reports say four cases have been detected in Patna. All had Covid-like symptoms but tested negative. Further tests indicated white fungus. Patients are fine. It's an opportunistic pathogen and may attack nails, skin, stomach, kidney, brain, mouth & private parts. Those low on immunity and on steroid could be at risk.

TOURIST HUB GOA REPORTS HIGH POSITIVITY, MORTALITY

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai

GOA is the only state in the country to have registered more than 50% positivity rate in the second coronavirus wave, overburdening the health infrastructure, and leading to the death of more than 2,000 people.

The mortality in Goa is 1.49% against 1.54% in Maharashtra and 1.11% all-India average. The Bombay High Court of Goa has slammed the state government over Covid patients' death due to lack of oxygen.

Digambar Kamat, former Goa CM and the leader of the Opposition, says the BJP-led government has lost the moral right to remain in power. He said the deaths occurred because the government was unable to arrange hospital beds, medical oxygen and other health facilities.

"This is nothing but murdering the people. We kept demanding enforcement of a lockdown and mandatory RT-PCR tests for those who stepped out of their houses. But they kept ignoring us, which has resulted in 2,000 deaths," said Kamat.

He said the government was on record having admitted that they failed to supply oxygen to patients, killing 75 people in just four days.

"We demand chief minister Pramod Sawant and his health minister Vishwajit Rane must step down," Kamat said. Sumit Naik, a senior journalist from Goa, told this paper that the state government went horribly wrong on many fronts, starting from taking political decisions to ignoring warnings of health experts.

He said after the first wave, Goa rather than remaining on alert, opened all its doors to tourists.

"The virus spread in such a huge manner that the state government looked helpless. The deaths due to lack of oxygen are unprecedented," said Naik. "In the midst of the pandemic, the CM and the health minister were engaged in an internal political tussle," he said.

The differences between Naik and his health ministers were on imposition of a lockdown and making the RT-PCR mandatory from outsiders. While the CM was more worried about the economy than the lives of the people, the health minister went in the opposite direction.

"This changed the focus of the government. The government moved only when the people started posting pictures of the horrible conditions of Covid patients in hospitals," Naik said.

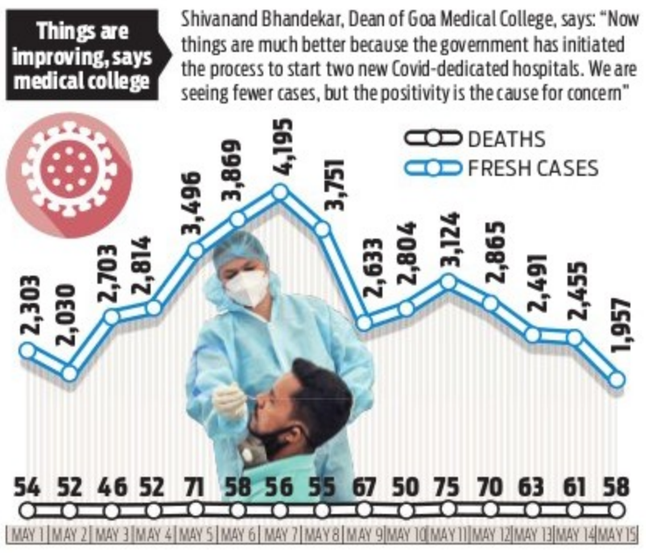
In Goa, the number of Covid cases started rising from May 1. From 2,303 cases being registered, the count almost doubled to 4,100 on May 7.

On May 2, the positivity rate was 42 % with 52 deaths while on May 5 and May 6, the positivity rate went up to 51.6% and 51.5% respectively with 71 and 58 deaths respectively.

Dr Shivanand Bhandekar, Dean of Goa Medical College, said the situation soon went out of hand as the Goa Medical College and Hospital received 900 patients against its capacity of only 350 beds.

Things are improving, says medical college

Shivanand Bhandekar, Dean of Goa Medical College, says: "Now things are much better because the government has initiated the process to start two new Covid-dedicated hospitals. We are seeing fewer cases, but the positivity is the cause for concern"



Will add 20 cr Covaxin doses annually: Firm

NEW DELHI: Bharat Biotech on Thursday announced its plan to rope in wholly-owned subsidiary Chiron Behring to ramp up the production of Covaxin by an additional 20 crore doses per year.

This will effectively take the volumes of Covaxin to nearly 1 billion doses per annum, produced at the company's own established campuses specialised for manufacturing inactivated viral vaccines under the highest levels of biosafety, claimed the firm. As of now, Bharat Biotech is manufacturing only about 1.5 crore doses of Covaxin per month that is likely to go up to 4-5 crore doses per month by July.

The company has tied up with three public service undertakings to scale up the production of Covaxin. These undertakings, however, could take quite a few months before the actual productions start. Bharat Biotech said on Thursday Covaxin produced at Chiron Behring at Ankleshwar, Gujarat, could be available from September.

"Bharat Biotech had already deployed multiple production lines at its Hyderabad and Bengaluru campuses, adding Chiron Behring to this line up of high containment BSL (bio safety lab) rated GMP facilities that are required to manufacture Covaxin," it said. *ENS*

In touch with US entities for vax procurement: MEA

NEW DELHI: India on Thursday said it was engaged with entities in the US for the procurement and subsequent manufacture of Covid-19 vaccines. New Delhi's reaction came after US President Joe Biden announced that his country will distribute 80 million doses of vaccine to nations in need.

"We remain engaged with US entities on prospects of procuring vaccines from the US and perhaps, also manufacturing them in India subsequently. This will boost vaccine availability once the process is complete," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

The US has announced that it will distribute 80 million vaccines including 60 million of the AstraZeneca and 20 million doses of Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson and Johnson. It is not yet clear how much India's share would be. Bagchi said New Delhi has noted the recent announcement of the Biden administration. On the regulations that the vaccines given to India would have clear, he said all vaccines procured from abroad will have to be in line with India's regulatory guidelines.

EAM: Pandemic must not be treated as one-off episode

EAM S Jaishankar the pandemic may be the most serious in living memory and should not as a one-off episode. "India, Japan and Australia are working on a supply chain resilience initiative and called for strengthening and de-risking the global economy through effective partnerships," Jaishankar said during his online address at the Future of Asia conference. He said the answer to the pandemic is to expand global flows while creating confidence that benefits are beneficial for the entire world. *ENS*

CM ANNOUNCES

MP to give ₹1 lakh to families which lost near ones to Covid

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bhopal

EVERY family in Madhya Pradesh, which lost one or more members to Covid-19 in the second wave, will get ₹1 lakh as ex-gratia, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced on Thursday.

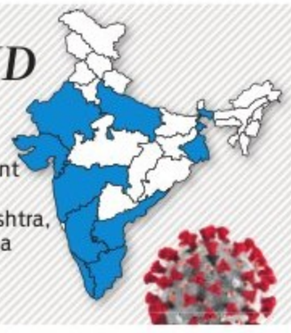
After a virtual meeting with BJP legislators during his visit to Indore, the CM said: "We tried our best to save the loved ones of every family, but many families lost their members, despite all our efforts. Words of sympathy aren't enough, as they've suffered irreparable losses. Every family which lost its member during the second wave will be granted a sum of ₹1 lakh."

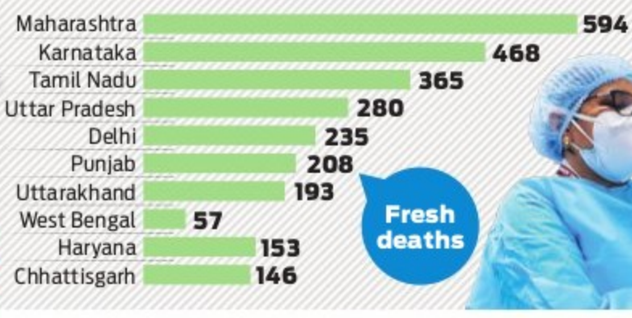
Since March, Madhya Pradesh has officially lost around 3,500 lives to the virus. The announcement by Chouhan, makes Madhya Pradesh the second state after Delhi to offer ex-gratia to families which have lost their loved ones. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had announced that these families will receive ₹50,000 each.

MP has announced other beneficial schemes also. On May 14, the CM had announced a monthly sum of ₹5,000 for children left orphans by the pandemic. There is also an announcement of free ration, education and interest-free loan to the kin of these children, who would be taking care of them.

INDIA'S COVID TRACKER

8 states cumulatively account for 69.23% of total active cases: Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh





18,70,09,792 total vaccine doses administered through 27,31,435 sessions so far

1.97 crore doses still available with Centre to states/UTs to be administered

21 crore doses provided by Centre to states/UTs free of cost so far

1.11% is the national mortality rate

34,875 fresh Covid cases reported from Tamil Nadu, highest in India

20,55,010 tests conducted on Wednesday in the country

2,23,55,440 total number of people recovered

10 states account for **72.25%** of new deaths

DAILY TESTS TO REACH 45 LAKH BY JUNE-END

New Delhi: Authorities on Thursday said daily Covid-19 tests in India, which has crossed the 20-lakh mark, will reach 25 lakhs by the end of this month and rise to 45 lakh by June-end, as the pandemic has struck the country's vast rural areas. On Tuesday and Wednesday, over 20 lakh tests were done, even though the second wave of the pandemic has shown signs of ebbing. Daily cases and test positivity rate have been falling.

EXPRESS READ

Sonia urges PM for free education for Covid orphans

New Delhi: Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Thursday urged PM Narendra Modi to provide free education to children who have lost parents in the Covid pandemic. "I am writing to request you to consider providing free education at the Navodaya Vidyalayas to children who have lost either both parents or an earning parent on account of the Covod-19 pandemic," she said. The Congress chief said there has been news of children losing parents and that they are left with the trauma of loss and no support towards a stable education or future.

OPEN LETTER

Stop Central Vista project, give free doses to all: Ex-bureaucrats to PM

NEW DELHI: A group of 116 former civil servants have written an open letter to PM Narendra Modi urging the Centre to provide for a free vaccination to all Indian citizens and ramp up RT-PCR testing in both rural and urban areas.

The civil servants, including former cabinet secretary K M Chandrasekhar, former health secretary K Sujatha Rao, former foreign secretary and ex-national security adviser Shivshankar Menon, former adviser to the PM T K A Nair, former chief information commissioner Wajahat Habibullah and former Delhi L-G Najeeb Jung, said the government seems to be more concerned with managing the narrative of "efficient" management of the Covid crisis rather than addressing the crucial issues.

They added that the steady erosion of the Cabinet system of governance, the worsening of federal ties with the states the lack of informed consultation with experts and Parliamentary committees, the failure to take the timely advice of expert panels and the absence of effective coordination with state governments have had disastrous consequences for the poor and disadvantaged and now for the better-off sections of society as well.

"Despite warnings from the international community and our scientists, the breathing space between the first and the second waves was not used to augment critical resources such as medical staff, hospital beds, oxygen supplies, ventilators and drugs and other medical supplies," the letter said.

The former bureaucrats also said the holding of assembly elections may have been unavoidable, but party functionaries threw all caution to the winds by conducting huge public rallies in different states.

"Make adequate funds available to the states for provision of medical facilities and stop expenditures on non-essential items like the Central Vista Redevelopment Project. Draw on the existing surplus foodgrain stocks to provide free rations to the families of the marginalised and deprived sections of society as well as unorganised labour," they added.

On PM Cares fund, the letter said the PM-Cares fund was set up when there was already a PM National Relief Fund in place. *ENS*

TEEN MERGES 50K PICS OF MOON

A 16-year-old amateur astro- photographer from Pune has captured over 50,000 images of the moon and ultimately pieced them together to create a detailed image of the earth's only natural satellite

2 ALLEGED TERRORIST ASSOCIATES ARRESTED IN J&K

	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	37	25	Mumbai	31	28
Bhopal	38	24	Panaji	29	26
Jaipur	33	25	Patna	32	23
Amritsar	34	23	Lucknow	35	24
Chennai	34	27	Port Blair	30	24
Kolkata	37	29	Imphal	29	22
Srinagar	25	13	Chandigarh	33	23

The Navy rescuing crew of GAL Constructor off Mumbai on Thursday | PTI

23 more bodies recovered from sunken barge

188 people rescued so far from 2 barges; Maharashtra CM to tour affected areas

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Mumbai/Delhi

THE Navy on Thursday recovered 23 more bodies of crew members of the P-305 barge that sank on Monday night, amid Cyclone Tauktae.

As of Thursday, 188 people (including two of tug Varaprada) have been rescued and a total of 49 bodies have been recovered. Ships and aircraft of the Navy and Coast Guard are continuing the search and rescue operations to locate the remaining crew members.

The Navy has deployed six vessels—INS Kochi, INS Kolkata, INS Talwar, Beas, Betwa and Teg, while Coast Guard has deployed ICG Smarth, Juliet, ICG 206, CG Patrol and ICG Shoor for the search operations.

> The Navy's Search and Rescue (SAR) operations entered the fourth day today. Naval ships and aircraft are presently undertaking SAR of the missing crew members of Barge P-305, which sank on Monday
>
> Navy spokesperson

Meanwhile, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has scheduled a visit to the cyclone-affected areas of Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri in the Konkan region. In Maharashtra, nine people died and over 5,000 homes have been damaged. The cyclone has uprooted many trees and damaged several mango farms in the region. Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnavis, senior BJP leader Ashish Shelar are also visiting cyclone-affected areas. Congress leader Balasaheb Thorat said the government is committed to compensating the farmers who lost their properties to the cyclone.

Fadnavis, who visited the Raigad district, met farmers and fishermen. He ensured them that the central government will also help Maharashtra like Gujarat.

In Gujarat, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani on Thursday conducted an aerial survey of cyclone-hit areas in Amreli and Gir-Somnath districts and later said compensation will be given after assessment of the damage caused to crops and property.

Rupani's aerial survey came a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi undertook a similar exercise to assess the devastation caused by cyclone Tauktae in Gujarat and adjoining Union Territory of Diu. The Gujarat chief minister had accompanied Modi during Wednesday's aerial survey.

Rahman Shaikh, the chief engineer of the P-305 barge, alleged on Thursday that its captain did not take the cyclone warning seriously.

Cong high command steps in to douse Punjab fire

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

INFIGHTING in Punjab's ruling Congress party over the sacrilege case appears to have calmed on Thursday, following an intervention by the Congress high command.

According to sources, the party high command has asked Chief Minister Amarinder Singh not to take any actions against the party members who have been critical of him over the issue of justice in the sacrilege case and the subsequent police shooting. The party high command has also asked those who have been raising their voice against the CM over the issue to refrain from further attacks.

Sources said Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi, former party president Rahul Gandhi and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra have taken independent feedback on the situation.

Rahul Gandhi is expected to hold a meeting with all Congress MLAs and MPs of the state. He is also expected to meet the 37 party leaders who lost in last year's Assembly elections. Besides, Rahul may meet the party's state president and district leaders.

Sources said Harish Rawat, who is the Congress in-charge of Punjab, will submit a report to the party high command on the situation after meeting CM Amarinder and the MLAs who've raised their voices over the sacrilege case.

Sources said the party has not been able to make a final decision on who'll takeover as the next state president because of infighting. While one group wants Navjot Singh Sidhu to replace Sunil Jakhar as the party's state president, this is being strongly opposed by the Amarinder camp. With next year's Assembly elections fast approaching, the person who now becomes the party's state president will have a considerable influence over allotting party tickets. Cabinet minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa and MP Ravneet Singh Bittu want a change in the leadership. They have asked that someone with decades of experience be made the head of the state unit.

> In 2019, I began & ended my Election Campaign in Punjab seeking - Justice for Sacrilege of Guru Granth Sahib Ji & punishing the culprits & the ONE shielding them... Now, Our MLAs & Party Workers must go to Delhi & speak the Truth to our High Command
>
> Navjot Singh Sidhu, Congress MLA

Party takes tough stance against Rajasthan rebels

RAJESH ASNANI @Jaipur

WITH a faction of MLAs allied to Sachin Pilot mounting pressure on Rajasthan's Ashok Gehlot government, the Congress high command on Thursday said that it will not bend to the wishes of a few. Ajay Maken, the Congress in-charge for Rajasthan, said Pilot is an asset, but the party will not be run according to the wishes of a few leaders.

After the resignation of Congress MLA Hemaram Chaudhary, other MLAs from the Pilot camp have expressed dissent. MLA Ved Solanki has appealed to the party high command for decentralisation of power after Hemaram's resignation. He has stated that if his demands are not met, he too will have to step down.

Two more MLAs from the Pilot camp—Murari Meena and Mukesh Bhakar—have come forward and asked the party leadership to listen to the demands of Chaudhary and others.

Maken said, "the party does not take decisions based on a few people's wishes. Sachin Pilot is an asset and a star campaigner in Rajasthan. He was instrumental in getting our party elected in the state. In coming times, party will give him responsibilities keeping all of these things in mind."

Mamata attacks Centre over CBI arrests

PRANAB MONDAL @Kolkata

WEST Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday called the CBI's arrest of three Trinamool Congress MLAs, including two ministers, an act of vendetta politics. She said the two ministers, who were arrested, were playing a key role in the state's fight against Covid-19.

It was for the first time she was speaking in public after Monday's arrest of three party MLAs by the central agency.

"Two ministers Bobby (Firhad Hakim) and Subrata Mukherjee were playing a key role (in the battle against Covid-19). Bobby works hard and is always on the field. He was among those who took the vaccine during its trial run," the chief minister said. "They are detained for four days. We are dealing with the Covid situation by adopting alternative measures. But no one can substitute anyone," Mamata said at the state secretariat.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee addresses a press conference at State Secretariat in Kolkata on Thursday | PTI

Without naming the BJP, she said, "They don't have time to look at the plight of the common people at this hour of crisis. But they have time to practice politics of vendetta."

The CBI on Monday, arrested Panchayat and Rural Development Minister Subrata Mukherjee, Transport and Urban Development Minister Firhad Hakim, Trinamool Congress MLA Madan Mitra and former Kolkata Mayor Sovan Chatterjee in connection with the Narada sting operation case.

On Thursday evening, Mamata, while returning to her residence from the state secretariat went to Hakim's house and met his daughter Sabba. She reportedly told Sabba that it is a political battle which the TMC will win.

Though Mamata did not name the BJP, her party functionaries have accused the saffron camp of using the central agency against the TMC leaders as a retribution for their defeat in the recently-concluded Assembly elections in the state.

The TMC's spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said the BJP is playing a game of dirty politics. "BJP's national vide-president Mukul Roy and Nandigram MLA Suvendu Adhikari are also accused in the case. But they are left untouched because they are under the umbrella of the BJP," he alleged.

EXPRESS READ

Covid positive Maoist fighters surrender

Raipur: Fear of Covid-19 has apparently driven four cadres of the outlawed CPI (Maoist) to surrender to police on Thursday. They were immediately tested for Covid and were found positive. "The surrendered Maoist cadres found positive were sent under the police protection to the Covid care centre for proper treatment," said Abhishek Pallava, Dantewada police chief.

GAZA CRISIS

India closely monitoring the situation in West Asia

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@New Delhi

INDIA on Thursday said it was closely following the developments in West Asia where a conflict between Israel and Palestinian militants based in Gaza are showing no signs of easing.

"We are closely following the situation and will make a statement at the UN General Assembly when the issue comes up for discussion," the Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

Earlier, India's permanent representative to the United Nations, TS Tirumurti called for the immediate de-escalation of the situation.

"The events of the last several days have resulted in a sharp deterioration of the security situation. The indiscriminate rocket firings from Gaza targeting the civilian population of Israel, which we condemn, and the retaliatory strikes into Gaza, have caused immense suffering," he said at the UN Security Council.

The Indian envoy also urged both sides to show restraint. "Both sides should refrain from changing the status quo, including in East Jerusalem," he said. Tirumurti said India believes every effort should be made to create conditions favourable for talks. "I reiterate India's strong support to the just Palestinian cause and its unwavering commitment to the two-state solution."

THE LONG WAIT

Women wait in queue outside a ration shop to get the ration in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur on Thursday | PTI

Users from six categories eligible for Twitter verification under new rules

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@New Delhi

TWITTER on Thursday relaunched its profile verification process, which was suspended in 2017.

Under the new verification policy, a user should fall under one of the six categories—government; companies, brands, organizations; news organisations and journalists; entertainment, sports and gaming; and activists, organisers and other influential individuals—to be eligible for verification.

In addition, the account should have a profile name, a profile image and either a confirmed email address or a phone number. The account must also have been active in the last six months and have a record of adherence to the rules of Twitter, the company said.

Twitter is also planning to introduce more categories later this year for scientists, academics, and religious leaders, the company said.

"Over the past several months, we've been working to bring clarity to the eligibility criteria for verification and launched a new policy shaped by feedback from public. We also started enforcing that policy by automatically removing the verified badge from accounts that no longer meet the updated criteria for verification, such as those that are inactive or incomplete," Twitter said in a statement.

Verified accounts will have a blue badge, which is one of the ways Twitter helps people identify the authenticity of accounts that are of high public interest. "It gives people on Twitter more context about who they're having conversations with."

Hurriyat devises plan to remember slain separatists

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@New Delhi

PAKISTAN-based faction of the Hurriyat Conference has devised an elebaorate plan to mark the death anniversaries of two separatist leaders—Mirwaiz Maulvi Mohammad Farooq and Abdul Gani Lone—on May 21.

While the Jammu and Kashmir faction of the Hurriyat Conference has announced a cancellation of all its programs in view of the pandemic, the Pakistani faction have decided to go ahead and observe the death anniversaries, bringing to fore the prevailing differences between the Mirwaiz Umar Farooq-led faction of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) based in Jammu and Kashmir, and its wing in Pakistan.

According to the plan, the Hurriyat leaders aim to spread awareness through social media, affix posters and banners and gather at the graves of slain separatist leaders before the Friday prayers. The leaders also want people in Kashmir to march towards Mazar-e-Shuhada, Srinagar in accordance with Covid-19. They also want a complete shutdown to be observed in view of the death anniversaries and meetings to be held at mosques and other places throughout Kashmir. Among other activities, the group is planing to organise protests in different countries. It has also called for a press conference to be held in Islamabad.

Actor Juyal seeks support for state's Covid battle

Actor-dancer Raghav Juyal has sought the Centre's support for Uttarakhand, which, like many other states, has been battling a surge in Covid-19 infections. Raghav has shared his appeal on various social media platforms. He has also pleaded with other states to pay heed to Uttarakhand's appeal for help. In one of the videos shared on social media, Raghav said locals, youths, and volunteers in Uttarakhand are trying their best to provide medical help to as many patients as possible. But, due to a lack of resources, they have been unable to do enough. Raghav has been camping in Dehradun for over a month now.

VINEET UPADHYAY
Our correspondent in Dehradun
vineet.upadhyay@newindianexpress.com

DEHRADUN DIARY

Only two districts have vaccinated all frontline workers

Only two of Uttarakhand's 13 districts have been able to fully vaccinate their frontline workers. However, of the 1.35 lakh frontline workers in the state, about 1.07 lakh have been fully vaccinated. "There have been instances when the vaccine registration of frontline workers has been done more than once. Hence, the number of frontline workers who are yet to be vaccinated is more than the real figure. We do not have clear data, but over 95% of frontline workers have already been vaccinated with both the doses," Dr Kuldeep Martolia of the state health department said. Only Haridwar and Rudraprayag districts have been able to vaccinate all of their frontline workers. Haridwar has the maximum number of frontline workers in the state at 29,387. It is followed by Dehradun (24,665) and Udham Singh Nagar (23,867).

Govt asked to declare state's teachers as frontline workers

Teachers of Uttarakhand have asked the state government to designate them as frontline workers too. Members of the Teachers Union of Uttarakhand have requested the state government to ensure that teachers, who are deployed on Covid-19 duty, are given perks similar to that of other frontline workers. The general secretary of the union said, "We are also working tirelessly to keep the education of students going. Our humble request on Covid-19 duty as frontline workers."

Demand for ambulance services up by 36%

The demand for emergency ambulance services in Uttarakhand has gone up by 36%. On average, about 3,000 calls are now being received by 108 emergency services in the hill state each day. Earlier, the 108 emergency number used to get around 2,200 calls on average. Many ambulance drivers testing positive for Covid in recent weeks have added to the woes. "We are working more than 18 hours a day because many drivers have gotten infected," an ambulance driver said. Amid high demand, there have also been reports of fleecing by many ambulance service providers.

$500 million
worth of Covid assistance US has so far provided to India, the White House said

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	32	19	SNY	Los Angeles	21	12	SNY
Colombo	30	26	TDS	Melbourne	18	8	LR
Dhaka	35	28	TDS	Moscow	22	12	LR
Dubai	38	28	SNY	New York	24	18	LC
Houston	25	22	TDS	Singapore	31	27	TDS
Istanbul	18	14	HR	Toronto	25	19	LC
London	13	9	HR	Washington	31	16	SNY

ISRAEL UNLEASHES AIRSTRIKES AFTER VOWING TO PRESS ON IN GAZA

Diplomatic efforts to negotiate ceasefire gather pace | Netanyahu pushes back against US demands

GAZA CITY

ISRAEL unleashed another wave of airstrikes across the Gaza Strip early Thursday, killing at least one Palestinian and wounding several, and Hamas fired more rockets, even as expectations rose that a cease-fire could be coming.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has pushed back against calls from the US to wind down the Gaza offensive, appearing determined to inflict maximum damage on Hamas in a war that could help save his political career. Still, officials close to the negotiations say they expect a truce to be announced in the next 24 hours.

Explosions shook Gaza City and orange flares lit up the pre-dawn sky, with bombing raids also reported in the central town of Deir al-Balah and the southern town of Khan Younis. As the sun rose, residents surveyed the rubble from at least five family homes destroyed in Khan Younis. There were also heavy airstrikes on a commercial thoroughfare in Gaza City.

The Israeli military said it struck at least three homes of Hamas commanders in Khan Younis and another in Rafah, targeting 'military infrastructure,' as well as a weapons storage unit at a home in Gaza City. With hundreds already killed in the worst fighting since Israel and Hamas' 2014 war, US President Joe Biden told Israel on Wednesday that he expected "a significant de-escalation today on the path to a cease-fire", but Netanyahu pushed back, saying he was "determined to continue this operation until its aim is met."

It marked the first public rift between the two close allies since the fighting began and poses a difficult test of the US-Israel relationship early in Biden's presidency.

Still, an Egyptian intelligence official said a cease-fire was likely late Thursday or early Friday, after the US appeal bolstered Cairo's own efforts to halt the fighting. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the delicate talks.

Khalid Okasha, director of the Egyptian Center for Strategic Studies, which has close ties to the government, also said a cease-fire was likely in that timeframe, as did Osama Hamdan, a senior Hamas official.

Visiting the region, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Israel has 'the right to defend itself against such unacceptable attacks.' But he also expressed concern about the rising number of civilian victims and support for truce efforts.

Even as the diplomatic efforts appeared to gather strength, an Israeli airstrike smashed into the Khawaldi family's two-story house in Khan Younis, destroying it. The 11 residents, who were sleeping outside of the home out of fear, were all wounded and hospitalised, said Shaker al-Khozondar, a neighbour. Shrapnel also hit his own home, killing his aunt and wounding her daughter and two other relatives, he said. Al-Khozondar spoke from his aunt Hoda's bedroom where she had died. The windows were shattered and the bed pillows and rubble were stained with blood. Weam Fares, a spokesman for a nearby hospital, confirmed the death and said at least 10 people were wounded in strikes overnight. Israeli bombing has damaged over 50 schools across the territory, according to advocacy group Save the Children, completely destroying at least six. While repairs are done, education will be disrupted for nearly 42,000 children.

Israeli attacks have also damaged at least 18 hospitals and clinics and destroyed one health facility, the World Health Organisation said. Nearly half of all essential drugs have run out. AP

Palestinian children fill up plastic containers with water in Gaza City

Palestinians inspect a house hit during an Israeli airstrike in Rafah

A targeted building is hit during an Israeli airstrike in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip

Pics | AFP
Israeli soldiers fire a 155mm self-propelled howitzer towards the Gaza Strip from Sderot

Sanders seeks to block US arms sale to Israel

US Senator Bernie Sanders introduced a resolution Thursday aimed at halting a $735 million arms sale to Israel, following similar moves by progressive Democrats but with very little chance of success. A clear majority of Republicans back Israel in its military confrontation with Gaza that authorities say has claimed more than 200 lives. Democrats are more divided, leaving President Joe Biden's administration under pressure from his party's liberal flank.

Syrians cast early ballots in symbolic presidential vote

The in-country vote is expected next week, while Syrians abroad cast their votes on Thursday

Despite the war, which seemed at one point to threaten his rule, Bashar al-Assad remained in power, supported by Iran and Russia

21 yrs
Assad has been in power since 2000 when he took over from his father, Hafez, who ruled before that for 30 years

4
Assad is running for a fourth seven-year term, facing symbolic competition from two candidates' in a vote all but guaranteed to bring him back as president

2
This is the second election since the civil war broke out 10 years ago

1million
Syrians stay in Lebanon, making it the country in the region hosting the largest number of refugees per capita

5 lakh
people have been killed and half the country's population displaced due to the civil war

TEXT: AP | PHOTOS: AP/PTI
Members of the Christian rightwing group attack a car carrying Syrian expatriates in Lebanon

Govt of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION KALABURAGI
No: EE/PWP&IWTD/KD/TS-2/Tender Notification/2020-21/ 543 Date:19.05.2021
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
1) Name of Work : Executive Engineer PWD Division Invites tender for the (16) Works under KKRDB for indent No 136045,137103,137291,137061,137066,137435,137473,137220, 137144, 137441,137439,137119,137117,137118,136534,136160, 2) Estimate cost : **Min Rs.19.36 Lakhs Max Rs. 500.00 Lakhs,** 3) Eligibility of Contractor : Class I & above, 4) Pre bid Meeting : **07.06.2021(11.00 Hrs),** 5) Last date for quries : **08.06.2021 (17.30 Hrs)** 6) Last date for Submission of bid : **09.06.2021 (16.00 Hrs),** 7) Date of Opening of Technical Bid : **10.06.2021 (16.30 Hrs),** 8) Date of opening of Financial Bid : **14.06.2021 (11.30 Hrs),** 9) Date of Downloading tender Details from E-Proc : **29.05.2021 onwards,** 10) Enquiries : Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi, 11) Note : GST Will be Paid Separately, 12) Website : **WWW.e-proc.Karnataka.gov.in**
DIPR/Kalaburagi/167/2021-22
Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division Kalaburagi

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Yelahanka Division, Yelahanka Zone, Bengaluru-560064
No.: BBMP/YNK-D/EE/E-PMT-3/2021-22 Date: 20.05.2021
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System) SHORT TERM TENDER - RFP (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)
The Executive Engineer (Yelahanka Division), Yelahanka Zone, BBMP invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike / KPWD / Electrical / CPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organization for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Approximate Value of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)
	Consultancy services for Detailed Project Report, Field Survey, General Report, Basic Drawing, Technical Report, Detailed Drawing, Detailed Cost Estimate for Restoration and Improvements of below mentioned	
1	Roads at Suryavamshi Layout, Synika Vihara Layout, Sai Vihara Layout, Naidu Layout, Nagenahalli Layout and surrounding areas in **Ward No. 02** of Yelahanka Sub Division **(Package No. 01) (Number of Works-04) Estimation Cost Rs. 1000.00 Lakhs**	10.00
2	Balance Main and Cross Roads of Nagenahalli, Harohalli, Kenchenahalli Villages, Srinidhi Layout, ISRO Layout, KEB Layout and surrounding areas in **Ward No. 02** of Yelahanka Sub Division **(Package No. 02) (Number of Works-05) Estimation Cost Rs. 1350.00 Lakhs**	13.50
3	Balance Roads of Ambhabhavani Layout, Ambhabhavani Nagara, SLN Enclave, Kere Anjeenappa Layout, Sainagar Phase-2, Anugraha Layout, Avikya Layout and surrounding areas in **Ward No. 03** of Yelahanka New Town Sub Division **(Package No. 03) (Number of Works-02) Estimation Cost Rs. 1000.00 Lakhs**	10.00
4	Balance Roads of AMS Layout, Venugopal Layout, Akashvani Layout, Chikkabettahalli Layout, Mahi Layout and surrounding areas in **Ward No. 03** of Yelahanka New Town Sub Division **(Package No. 04) (Number of Works-02) Estimation Cost Rs. 1000.00 Lakhs**	10.00
5	Balance Roads of Chikkabettahalli, Doddabettahalli Village, Adityanagara Phase -01 and surrounding areas in **Ward No. 03** of Yelahanka New Town Sub Division **(Package No. 05) (Number of Works-02) Estimation Cost Rs. 1000.00 Lakhs**	10.00
6	Balance Roads of Ananthapura Village, Prakruthi Layout, Nisarga Layout and surrounding areas in **Ward No. 03** of Yelahanka New Town Sub Division **(Package No. 06) (Number of Works-02) Estimation Cost Rs. 1000.00 Lakhs**	10.00
7	Balance Roads of Brundhavana Layout, Balaji Layout, BHEL 1st Phase and 2nd Phase Layout, Lakshmaiah Reddy Layout, Naidu Layout, Jyothinagara 2nd and 3rd Phase, Ramanna Garden and surrounding areas in **Ward No. 03** of Yelahanka New Town Sub Division **(Package No. 07) (Number of Works-03) Estimation Cost Rs. 1000.00 Lakhs**	10.00
8	Roads M.S. Palya, Aishwarya Bakery Road, Giridhamanagara and surrounding areas in **Ward No. 03** of Yelahanka New Town Sub Division **(Package No. 08) (Number of Works-03) Estimation Cost Rs. 1000.00 Lakhs**	10.00
9	Roads at Hesaraghatta Main Road, G Ramaiah Layout, Sai Archade Layout, Vijaya Bank Layout, Adityanagara Phase-02 and surrounding areas in **Ward No. 03** of Yelahanka New Town Sub Division **(Package No. 09) (Number of Works-03) Estimation Cost Rs. 1150.00 Lakhs**	11.50
10	Mahalakshmi Layout, Balaji Layout, Best County-II and III, Bhaskar Reddy, Andhra Layout and surrounding areas in **Ward No. 03** of Yelahanka New Town Sub Division **(Package No. 10) (Number of Works-04) Estimation Cost Rs. 1600.00 Lakhs**	16.00
11	Channamma and Narayanappa Layout, Narayanagowda Layout, Basavalingappa Layout and surrounding areas in **Ward No. 03** of Yelahanka New Town Sub Division **(Package No. 11) (Number of Works-03) Estimation Cost Rs. 1000.00 Lakhs**	10.00
12	Roads from Doddaballapura Main Road to Nagarjuna Collage, Kaveri Layout, Chowdappa Layout, Maruthinagara, Hariraja Layout and surrounding areas in **Ward No. 03** of Yelahanka New Town Sub Division **(Package No. 12) (Number of Works-03) Estimation Cost Rs. 1000.00 Lakhs**	10.00
13	Balance Roads of Chowdeshwari Layout, Mariyappa Layout, Muniraju Layout, Jyothinagara 1st Main Road, Deo Marvel Layout, Sainagara Phase-I and surrounding areas in **Ward No. 03** of Yelahanka New Town Sub Division **(Package No. 13) (Number of Works-03) Estimation Cost Rs. 1100.00 Lakhs**	11.00
14	Roads of Sai Nagara, Best County-01, Best County-02, Veerasagara Burial Ground to Thirumala Nagara and surrounding areas in **Ward No. 03** of Yelahanka New Town Sub Division **(Package No. 14) (Number of Works-02) Estimation Cost Rs. 900.00 Lakhs**	09.00
15	Bharath Nagara and Chandrappa Layout, Hill side Meadows Layout, Subhash Chandra Bose Main Road and surrounding areas in **Ward No. 03** of Yelahanka New Town Sub Division **(Package No. 15) (Number of Works-02) Estimation Cost Rs. 900.00 Lakhs**	09.00

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender document may be downloaded from the e-Procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from **21.05.2021. (2)** Date of Pre bid meeting at the Office of the Executive Engineer (Yelahanka Division) on **25.05.2021.** at **4:00 p.m. (3)** Tender must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **4:00 p.m.** on **03.06.2021** and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines. **(4)** Technical bids will be opened on the website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** in the office of the Executive Engineer (Yelahanka Division) on **04.06.2021** at **4:00 p.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office, during office hours or website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Yelahanka Division, Yelahanka Zone, BBMP
HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

ASIA MATTERS

MYANMAR

'Around 6k refugees sought safety in India'

UN: An estimated 4,000 to 6,000 refugees from Myanmar have sought safety in India, a spokesperson for the UN chief has said, as the world body voiced concern over the rising levels of displacement of people since the military coup in the country in February. The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) said that in Myanmar, as of last week, approximately 60,700 women, children and men have been internally displaced. More than 1,700 refugees have crossed into Thailand in March and April, most of whom subsequently returned to Myanmar, and an estimated 4,000 to 6,000 have sought safety in India, Spokesman for the Secretary-General said on Wednesday. Myanmar shares an over 1,600 km long porous land border with India as well as a maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal. PTI

PAKISTAN

13 killed, 32 others injured as bus overturns in Sindh

Karachi: A speeding bus overturned on a highway in Pakistan's Sindh province early on Thursday, killing at least 13 passengers and injuring 32 others, according to a media report. The accident took place on the National Highway near Sukkur, the third-largest city in Sindh province, Geo News reported. The bus was travelling from Multan to Karachi. Most of the passengers were reportedly asleep at the time of the accident, it said. The condition of several of the injured is said to be critical. PTI

SINGAPORE

Covid effect: Shangri-La Dialogue cancelled

Singapore: The Shangri-La Dialogue, which was scheduled to take place on June 4 and June 5 in Singapore, was cancelled due to the deterioration of the global Covid-19 situation, including in the host nation, the organisers of the prestigious top defence summit said on Thursday. Held in Singapore every year since its inception in 2002, the security summit gathers top level military officials, diplomats, policy makers and weapons manufacturers from across the world, including India. London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) organises the event. A spokesperson said even during Covid-19, the IISS believes in the role of face-to-face diplomacy to solve global problems. "Unfortunately, the global Covid-19 situation has recently deteriorated." PTI

Will knock teeth out of adversaries, says Vladimir Putin

MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin warned on Thursday that Russians would "knock out the teeth" of those who attack their country or eye its vast territory, amid a deep crisis in ties with the West.

Speaking at a government meeting, the Kremlin chief said that Russia's enemies were looking to clip its wings every time the nation grew strong.

"Everyone wants to bite us somewhere or to bite off something from us," Putin said. "But they -- those who are going to do it -- should know that we will knock out their teeth so that they cannot bite." Even after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Russia, the world's largest country by land mass, is "too big for some", Putin said.

He did not name Russia's adversaries explicitly, but said it was important to keep developing the armed forces to protect the country. The 68-year-old Russian leader, who has been in power for more than two decades, is known not to mince words during public meetings. In 1999, he famously promised to strike at separatists even in the "outhouse" which heralded the adoption of tougher tactics by the authorities against Chechen militants. AFP

Roadside bombings kill 13 people in western Afghanistan

KABUL

ROADSIDE bombings in southern and central Afghanistan killed 13 people, including nine members of one family, officials said Thursday.

Meanwhile, militants stopped a bus in western Afghanistan, ordered three men to get out and shot and killed them.

No one has claimed responsibility for the latest attacks. The three men on the bus were ethnic Hazaras.

The government blamed the Taliban, who denied responsibility. Previous attacks on Hazaras, who are mostly Shiite Muslims, have been claimed by the Islamic State group.

One of the two bombs struck a car carrying a family of 12 in southern Helmand province late on Wednesday, said provincial police spokesman Zaman Hamdarad.

Several of the nine family members who died were children, he said.

A second roadside bombing, in central Ghor province, destroyed a motorcycle carrying a family of four, all of whom were killed, said the province's governor, Abdul Zahir Faizzada. AP

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
O/o. Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari, Bangalore-560070
No.: EE/RDW&SD/BNG(U)/TND/05/2021-22 Date: 19.05.2021
Extended E-Procurement Tender Notice (Short Term)
Tenders are invited through e-Procurement for the works approved Under 4215 & 2215 Head of grants for the year 2021-22 Under Two Cover System. The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before **28.05.2021** up to **4:00 p.m.** For further details contact the above address during office hours or visit **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/- Executive Engineer Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Bangalore Urban Dist., Bangalore
DIPR/DDU/393/Alaknanda/2021-22
STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Market Watch

MARKET			GOLD			SILVER			FOREX		
337.78 ▼	Sensex	49,564.8	₹35 ▲	24 carat (1 gm)	₹4,700	₹700 ▼	Per kg	₹72,300	▼ Dollar		73.10
124.10 ▼	Nifty	14,906.05	₹35 ▲	22 carat (1 gm)	₹4,600	₹0.70 ▼	Per gm	₹72.30	▼ Euro		89.09

Telco battle heats up as Jio regains subscribers

The new JioPhone offerings have given user numbers a solid boost

JONATHAN ANANDA @ Chennai

IF Reliance Jio's first few years of existence was an era of near-unchallenged dominance, that changed in the financial year just gone by. FY21 saw Bharti Airtel shrug off the AGR-related millstone around its neck and begin beating Jio in the most fundamental numbers game in telecom: user additions. But key metrics disclosed for the fourth quarter of FY21 (ended March 2021) indicate a resurgence in Jio's subscriber acquisition and analysts expect the tussle for market dominance to get hotter.

While the latest subscriber data from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) show Jio beating Airtel in terms of wireless subscriber additions in February for the first time in six months, fourth quarter releases also show that Jio has pipped Airtel in terms of overall net user additions for the period—at 15.4 million versus 13.4 million. Both Jio's and Airtel's revenues fell compared to the previous quarter, primarily driven by the removal of the Interconnect Usage Charges (IUC) system. Airtel's from ₹26,517.8 crore to ₹25,747.3 crore, and Jio's from ₹22,858 crore to ₹21,650 crore.

However, analysts note that Airtel's dip raises some concerns even though "underlying fundamentals are strong". While its Average Revenue Per User (ARPU) remains higher than Jio's for the wireless segment at ₹145 against the latter's ₹138, it recorded a steeper fall compared to the previous quarter. At the end of Q3FY21, Airtel had an ARPU of ₹166 against Jio's ₹151. According to Airtel's statement, if its ARPU were adjusted by removing IUC from the equation, the decline is marginal—from ₹146 in Q3FY21 to ₹145 in Q4FY21.

A senior analyst noted, however, that while the removal of IUC had been expected to impact Jio's ARPU rather sharply, Airtel's APRU decline had been "a mild surprise... since it was thought to be a net-payer of IUC fees unlike Jio". "The lower ARPU is disappointing in the backdrop of strong 4G subscriber additions," Motilal Oswal said in a note.

One factor that impacted Airtel's numbers were higher network expenses, especially since it added a record 8,300 towers and diesel costs shot up over 10 per cent. "But this will work out to their advantage going forward, because it increases their subscriber capacity and enhance service quality," said an industry executive, "It puts Airtel in a strong position to accelerate user additions".

For Jio, the headwinds from farmers' protests have declined and the new JioPhone offerings have given user numbers a solid boost. Analysts expect it to sustain the momentum in user additions—helped along not just by the new JioPhone packages, launched only late in February this year, but also its soon-to-be-launched low-cost smartphone. Goldman Sachs, for instance, expects the smartphone to help keep Jio's subscriber momentum elevated.

15.4 mn
Jio's net user addition in Q4

₹21,650 cr
Jio's revenue as of March'21

STAGE SET FOR 5G

Both Airtel and Jio have already begun working on 5G product demos.

In February this year, Airtel announced the successful demonstration of its live 5G services over a commercial network in Hyderabad.

Jio is working on an indigenously developed 5G network

FY21 ITR filing deadline now Sept 30

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE government on Thursday extended the deadlines of various tax compliances to ease hardships faced by taxpayers amid the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic. The due date of filing Income Tax Returns (ITRs) for financial year 2020-21 (or assessment year 2021-22) for individuals has been extended by two months till September 30. For companies, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has extended the ITR filing deadline by a month till November 30.

In addition, the deadline for issuing Form 16 by employers to employees has been extended by a month till July 15, 2021, the CBDT said in a circular. The due date of furnishing the tax audit report has also been extended to October 31 2021 from September 30, 2021. For filing belated or revised return of income, the due date is now January 31, 2022.

Nangia & Co LLP Partner Shailesh Kumar said that the extension of due dates is likely to provide some relief to taxpayers on the tax compliance front. "However, for taxpayers, whose entire income tax liability is not discharged by TDS and advance tax and such shortfall is more than ₹1 lakhs, they should endeavour to file their ITR within respective original due date to avoid the charge of interest u/s 234A, which is charged on filing ITR beyond the original due date at the rate of 1 per cent per month for every month/ part thereof after the original due date of filing ITR," he added.

That apart, the I-T department will launch a new e-filing web portal for taxpayers, which they use to file routine ITRs and perform other tax-related works on June 7. As such, the existing web portal will be shut for six days between June 1-6.

"In preparation of this launch and for migration activities, the existing portal of the department at www.incometaxindiaefiling.gov.in would not be available for a brief period of six days from June 1 to 6," the order stated.

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

Current Price ₹111.80
Target Price ₹150
ONGC

In FY20, ONGC made a total of 12 discoveries (seven onshore, five offshore) and has notified of eight new discoveries in FY21 thus far. We expect FY22 capex guidance would normalise once again to the historical average of INR320b. We raise our target price for ONGC valuing it at 10x FY23E adjusted EPS, considering the potential increase in gas from the KG basin from INR125.

—Motilal Oswal Financial Services

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *TNIE*.

Bitcoin recovers some losses after yet another Elon Musk tweet

BISMAH MALIK @ Bengaluru

FEARS of volatility surrounding the most popular virtual currencies including Bitcoin, Ethereum and Dogecoin turned stronger as the tokens plunged by about 30-50 per cent on Wednesday, only to see some rebound on Thursday spooking the investors and crashing exchanges. It was only when Bitcoin touched its lowest level since March 2020, with the onset of Covid-19 pandemic, at $30,000 that Tesla CEO Elon Musk in his standard emoji style tweeted that he is not selling his Bitcoin holdings and the digital token stabilised at $41,965. Similarly, his yet another cryptic tweet on Dogecoin helped the token jump by 11 per cent to touch 42 cents. Ethereum was also up by 12.84 per cent at $2,887.8 on global exchange coindesk.

Data from coinmarketcap.com indicated that the cryptocurrency market lost $1 trillion in market capitalization on Wednesday, thanks to the market rout caused by the sliding virtual currencies. On the same day, India's largest crypto exchange WazirX crashed as people bought the coins during dips and there were huge outflows.

WazirX CEO Nischal Shetty told this publication that the Bitcoin price correction was imminent. "It's a healthy correction for the market. We have to understand that markets don't go straight up, it has to take a breather to correct itself and then move up again. Moreover, we also saw a lot of institutional investors like PayPal, Tesla enter into crypto. News like this has also boosted retail participation," he added.

The wild ride of cryptocurrencies on exchanges began when China's central bank earlier sounded a warning against the use of virtual currencies including trading on exchanges as well as transactions by the country's financial institutions. In India, even as the RBI has recommended a complete ban on digital currencies and floating an indigenous digital asset, sources said that the finance ministry is in talks with industry stakeholders for regulating the market.

Banks, however, severed ties with Indian exchanges after citing an informal guidance from the regulator. According to the Internet and Mobile Association of India, the crypto community consists of over ten million crypto holders with assets worth over $1 billion and as many as 300 start-ups generating tens of thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue and taxes.

DIGITAL CURRENCY	PRICES ON MAY 12	PRICES ON MAY 20	CHANGE (IN %)
Bitcoin	$56,573	$42,274	(25.3)
Ethereum	$4,174	$2,953	(29.3)
Dogecoin	$0.49	$0.42	(14)
Ripple	$1.4	$1.22	(12)

Source: Coindesk

Second wave dents auto firms' recovery momentum

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE second wave of Covid-19 has derailed the recovery momentum of the automobile industry. Demand for products has touched near-zero levels as dealerships and showrooms remain closed due to regional lockdowns. Analysts have now started lowering the sector's growth outlook for this fiscal over the low base of 2020-21 when total auto sales fell over 13 per cent year-on-year.

In a report published on Thursday, rating agency ICRA noted that domestic two-wheeler volume in FY22 is now expected to grow by 10-12 per cent as against its previous estimate of 16-18 per cent. Passenger vehicle volume, too, will see a lower growth of 17-20 per cent now as against 22-25 per cent expected earlier, it added. "The significant medical spends have eroded the purchasing power of individuals and families to a greater extent, which would impact large ticket discretionary purchases like vehicles, at least over the near term," said Shamsher Dewan, vice-president and group head, ICRA Ratings.

Automakers expect the first half of the year to remain relatively weak. "The business scenario is fluid with the second wave of the pandemic hitting the country resulting in multiple lockdowns...This is expected to have a temporary adverse impact on the demand and supply situation. Consequently, the first half of the year is expected to be relatively weak. Sequential improvement in overall performance is expected from the second quarter of FY22," said officials at Tata Motors. That apart, the ongoing rally in metal prices could lead to another round of price hikes of vehicles, which could either be of second or third price hikes in the past few months of 2021, it noted. "Another dampener is the rise in fuel prices which shall not only impact consumer sentiments but also logistics and supply chain," noted Care Ratings.

EXPRESS READ

Govt garners ₹4K cr from Axis Bank OFS

New Delhi: The government's offer to sell its nearly two per cent stake held in Axis Bank held through SUUTI has received a "good response", with the government garnering about ₹4,000 crore, tweeted Department of Investment and Public Asset Management Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey. The government had offered to sell its 58 million shares or 1.95 per cent stake of Axis Bank held through SUUTI.

'Got 40K requests for user data from govt'

Bengaluru: Social media giant Facebook said on Thursday that it has received 40,300 requests from the Indian government for user data in the second half of last year (July-December 2020), of which 37,865 were legal process requests and 2,435 were emergency disclosure requests. It further added that the government has requested for information related to 62,754 users/accounts in the country.

Gautam Adani is now Asia's second richest

New Delhi: Indian business magnate Gautam Adani has surged past Chinese billionaire Zong Shanshan to emerge as Asia's second richest person, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. The Adani Group chief's net worth stood at $66.5 billion against Zhong Shanshan's $63.6 billion. Among Asians, Adani now stands only behind his Indian peer and head of Reliance Industries Mukesh Ambani.

RBI's new norms on interoperability put mobile wallets on par with banks

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

STARTING April 2022, a mobile wallet user, who has fulfilled all know-your-customer (KYC) norms, will be able to send and receive money from different mobile wallets including the likes of Paytm and PhonePe.

In a recent circular, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made mobile wallet interoperability mandatory from FY23 (aligned with the framework outlined in its policy statement last month), which experts say would put the non-bank (prepaid payment instruments) PPI issuers or the digital wallets at par with traditional bank accounts in terms of services offered. The move, they say, will enable wider usage and penetration of digital payments.

Shilpa Mankar Ahluwalia, Partner - FinTech, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co said that the new RBI norms will create a much greater level playing field between bank and non-bank PPI issuers. Additionally, mobile wallets can now be used for cash withdrawals up to ₹2,000. The wallet limit can be increased to ₹2 lakh from ₹1 lakh, the circular said.

"These quasi bank payment features will enable much wider usage and penetration of PPIs pushing the growth of digital payments in the country," Mankar added.

Interoperability, in simple terms, means that customers who have completed full-KYC will be able to transfer funds to beneficiaries of other PPIs or banks. So from wallet service provider like Paytm you can transfer money to PhonePay and vice-versa.

While the move would open up another window for wallet companies to explore new business opportunities, experts say it remains to be seen how wallet operators can build on this and how this might eventually impact the idea of payments banks. The cost of entry into a new industry, however, is likely to get lowered.

Meanwhile, the only difference between the two will be that payments banks will pay interest on deposits, while wallet balances will not yield any return, said an industry expert, requesting anonymity.

Indian refiners likely to buy Iranian crude if sanctions are lifted

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

INDIAN oil refiners such as Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) are eyeing the possibility of a particularly "favourable"crude oil source opening up again in the near future: Iran. The Biden administration's move to rejoin the Iran nuclear accord has triggered speculation that sanctions placed by the United States on the West Asian country may become history soon.

In an environment with no US sanctions, Indian refiners may resume buying substantial quantities of crude from Iran, industry executives say.

Speaking at a post-earning conference call with investors on Wednesday, IOC's Director (Finance) S K Gupta observed that there was no reason why the company "will not be buying Iranian crude if sanctions are lifted".

"Iranian crude," he added, "is favourable to Indian refineries".

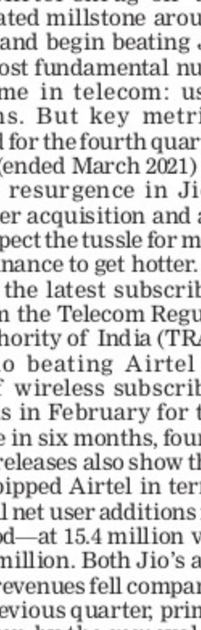
It isn't just IOC that seems to be gearing up to exploit Iranian crude oil supply. A senior marketing executive from another state-run OMC said that most Indian refineries are eyeing Iranian crude oil purchases in the expectation that the sanctions may be lifted soon. "Before the US sanctions, Iran had become among the largest suppliers of crude oil to Indian oil companies. The crude's composition is also favourable to process for a large portion of India's refinery infrastructure," they said.

By mid-2019, when the Donald Trump-led US reimposed sanctions, Iran had become India's third largest crude oil supplier, beaten only by Iraq and Saudi Arabia in 2017-18. For Iran, India had become its second biggest customer after China.

Commercially, Iranian crude came with benefits not offered by India's other oil suppliers-such as a 60-day credit window for purchases and, for a few years before May 2016, even free shipping.

Gupta noted during the investors' call, however, that it was too premature to be discussing any commercial terms that may be offered in the future if sanctions were removed.

Without Iran in the mix, India's crude oil sources have undergone a marked change. In 2020-21. Iraq was India's largest supplier, followed by Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Nigeria, and the US.



Oxygen concentrators reaches CLW

A consignment of 31 oxygen concentrators of five litre capacity from ACT Grants has reached Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) to meet requirements of Covid-19 patients admitted in KG Hospital. These concentrators come with inbuilt pulse oximeters to measure the oxygen saturation of the patients. CLW general manager Satish Kumar Kashyup, appreciated the move.

RRIUM initiates free distribution of Ayush-64

Amid massive surge in Covid-19 cases, Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine (RRIUM), Chennai has initiated free distribution of AYUSH-64 for asymptomatic, mild to moderate Covid-19 patients in home isolation as per the mandate of Ministry of Ayush. AYUSH-64 is being dispensed at RRIUM, Chennai through a dedicated Covid-19 clinic.

Initial loss from Tauktae likely at ₹15,000 cr: RMSI

Global catastrophe risk management firm RMSI has estimated the initial potential loss from the extremely severe cyclone Tauktae at ₹15,000 crore, with the agriculture sector being the worst hit. At least half of the loss is in Gujarat and Daman & Diu. The remaining is expected from the western coastal states of Kerala, Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka, the report stated, adding though the cyclone has made landfall, this is not the end of distress.

Business & Beyond

G V Sampath, chairman, Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore, donated ₹25 lakh to Tamil Nadu chief minister's Covid-19 relief fund. Vice-chairman Anita Sampath and general manager Nitin Sampath were present.

TMB donates ₹3 cr to CM's relief fund

Tuticorin-based Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB) has donated ₹3 crore to the Tamil Nadu chief minister's public relief fund to fight Covid-19, the lender said in a statement. TMB chairman A Niranjan Sankar along with TMB director D N Nirranjan Kani and TMB Chennai regional manager D Ramesh handed over a demand draft for ₹3 crore to chief minister M K Stalin at the Secretariat.

NBCC vaccinates over 360 staff

State-owned NBCC has organised a Covid-19 vaccination drive for employees and their families in the age group of 18-45 years at its corporate office in New Delhi. Over 360 eligible persons were successfully vaccinated during the drive. In this massive drive, employees and their dependents from subsidiaries HSCC and HSCL were also inoculated with the first dose of Covishield.

GRSE Q4 FY21 net up 18%

PSU shipbuilder Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) reported a net profit of ` 58 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2021, a jump of 18 per cent over the corresponding period profit of ₹49 crore. Revenues stood at ₹399 crore down from ₹456 crore, the company said in a stock exchange filing. The company announced a dividend of ₹1.15 per share for the year 2020-21. The full year profit was down to ₹153 crore against ₹163 crore registered in 2020-21.

Sprint legend Milkha Singh tests positive for Covid-19

Legendary Indian sprinter Milkha Singh has tested positive for Covid-19 and is in isolation at his Chandigarh residence. The 91-year-old, popularly known as Flying Sikh, is asymptomatic. "A couple of our helpers earlier tested positive and so all the family members did the tests. Only I returned positive on Wednesday and I am surprised," Milkha told *PTI*.

Neeraj still looking for competitions; Patiala may host meets

FLIP SIDE

INDRANEEL DAS

GERMANY'S Johannes Vetter threw a monstrous 94.20m at the Golden Spike meeting in Ostrava, a World Athletics Continental Tour Gold event on Wednesday. The spear that flew through the air would have carried a message of warning to all javelin throwers eyeing a medal at the Tokyo Olympics. He has got down to business of competing in events of repute. This is his fourth competition since February and he has crossed 90m thrice.

Sound of the spear whistling through the air would have been heard in Patiala, too. Asian and Commonwealth Games gold medallist Neeraj Chopra has been yearning for competitions abroad. He is India's best hope for a medal at Olympics. He has been pleading with authorities for a chance at competing in international events before his first Olympics. If things were normal, perhaps, he would have been in Europe right now competing alongside Vetter. He could have been at the Gateshead Diamond League on May 23. His recent national record of 88.07m is behind Vetter's.

Chopra, it is learnt, was trying to go to Uppsala in Sweden where a coach was keen to host him. Even he was keen. The sports ministry, JSW, who supports him, and the Athletics Federation of India could not obtain a visa because of strict Covid restrictions in the country. For the time being, he is stuck in Patiala. There is a possibility of sending him to Japan in June if nothing works out.

Perhaps, the only consolation for him would be that some of the top javelin throwers are yet to compete. Estonia's Magnus Kirt (best of 90.61m), Rio Olympic gold winner Germany's Thomas Rohler (best of 93.90m) are yet to take part in 2021. Another German, Andreas Hofmann, had last competed in 2019 when he threw 89.65m (PB 92.06m). So did Rio Games silver winner Julios Yego (PB 92.72). Czech Jakub Vadlejch (PB 89.73) competed in two. Granada's Anderson Peters, the world champion, competed at Ostrava (4th meet in 2021) but he managed 83.39m, something Chopra won't be too worried about. Trinidad and Tobago's Keshorn Walcott bronze winner at Rio Games (85.38m) competed in two. As of now, Chopra needs competition. The European circuit has begun and in the next month, there will be a host of events. Time is running out and AFI knows it too.

There are a bunch of athletes who need qualification points too and for that, need competitions for merit (at least B level events) that would fetch them adequate points. Shot-putter Tajinder Pal Singh Toor is one if he doesn't manage the 21.10m entry standard. High jumper, Tejaswin Shankar too needs points. He is currently 52 in the Road to Tokyo with 1144 points, 44 adrift of the No 32 placed jumper. The entry standard his 2.33m and Tejaswin's PB is 2.29m. Perhaps, interstate nationals would be a place to garner maximum points.

The AFI is mulling competitions in Patiala for the time being. There is a possibility of hosting Indian GP and the interstate senior nationals at a venue that will not expose the athletes to Covid close to the Olympics. Patiala is a place where most athletes train and there is a possibility it could host two to three competitions before the WA's June 29 cut off date.

EXPRESS READ

Shooting coach Monali passes away

NEW DELHI: In a big loss to the Indian shooting fraternity, coach and technical official Monali Gorhe died of mucormycosis on Thursday. She was 44 and is survived by her mother and a sister. Monali was admitted to a hospital after being diagnosed with Covid-19 but was discharged, only to get re-admitted.

U-17 Women's WC in India in October 2022

NEW DELHI: The U-17 women's World Cup will be held in India from October 11 to 30 next year, FIFA Council said on Thursday. India were earlier scheduled to host the 2020 U-17 World Cup but it was postponed to 2021 before being cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Liverpool remain on course for top-4 finish

BURNLEY: Liverpool moved into the Premier League top four with a 3-0 win at Burnley as they men remain on course to salvage a place in next season's Champions League. Roberto Firmino and Nathaniel Phillips struck either side of half-time before Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain smashed home two minutes from time as the Reds edged ahead of Leicester on goal difference into fourth.

SELECTION JIGSAW FOR REID

After missing out Pro League games, hockey coach concedes that it will be tough to pick best squad for Olympics but remains positive with output from wards in training

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@ Chennai

EVERY Monday, Graham Reid, chief coach of the men's hockey team, and support staff gather for a quiet meeting inside the National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) in Bengaluru. The objective of the meeting? "To pick the Olympic 16," Reid says, "and have a look at how the identity of the personnel changes every week."

The Australian also spoke about the disappointment of not playing any more games before the Olympics and the kind of metrics they will now use to pick the final 18 among other areas of interest. Excerpts:

Is it disappointing that the six Pro League games (two each against Britain, Spain and Germany) have now been lost? Or do you see that as a positive because now there is complete certainty between now and the Olympics?

I won't lie, it's disappointing. We had a bit of momentum coming out of the games with Argentina. If we had been able to play those six games, it would have been fantastic. It would have also given us an opportunity to really nail down the selection for the Games. That's the part I'm most disappointed with. We had a 22 that went to Germany and a 22 that went to Argentina. What I was hoping for is an opportunity to have 22 for this trip too to finish that selection conundrum.

They say 'you can't change what happens to you but you can change how you react'. But I have been preparing these guys, been telling them 'we may not be getting another opportunity to play in an international competition before the Games'. I have been saying that to the boys for months now. So those two tours we got were a bonus. But those two tours did show that what we are doing here (Bengaluru) is working. Our training environment is world class, we are close to where we need to be.

Without those games, how will you go about finding the final 18 (including reserves) for Tokyo? Can you name the 16 if you were to name the team, say, today?

I won't go into details but one thing I will say is this. Since Argentina, we (including support staff) are picking our Olympic 16 every Monday and having a look at how that changes (on a week by week basis). It's always a good exercise to go through... it pretty much answers your question I think. The problem that you always have with selection... if you actually have to pick 16, it's a very difficult thing to do. One of the objectives that I had when we first started here was to be able to pick around 30 players with the quality staying the same. I think it's pretty close to that, and that's a great thing. It shows you where this squad is at.

Elaborating on it, what are the kind of metrics you will use to pick your squad?

Plan B, if you will, from a long time ago... I had already prepared that we weren't going to get any more games. We always play internal matches, normally on a Saturday morning.

Over the last two years, we have improved the tempo and increased the importance of these games to get a bit more out of them. We are constantly monitoring the output and then feeding it back to the players. We try and see how their numbers from these games stack up in comparison to the average Pro League game that we play. For example, "the intensity was 7% down on the Pro League game."

Whatever those numbers are, we are certainly a lot further down the track in the difference between our practice games and international competitions from say two years ago and now. So that's a positive thing. It allows us to make that step between internal games and external competition. The other vehicle we use is our everyday training environment where someone has an opportunity to make an impression.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Oly hopes in balance for women's recurve team

AYANTAN CHOWDHURY @ New Delhi

AFTER being unable to travel for the World Cup Stage II in Switzerland, now India's Olympic hopeful archers might miss out on the chance to travel to Paris and participate in the Final Olympic Qualification Event from June 18. On Wednesday, the French Embassy informed Archery Association of India that short-term visas were not being given by the French government due to the second Covid-19 wave which has devastated the country. France has banned flights from India, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, and South Africa.

This is a major blow for India's women recurve team, which was one of the favourites to seal their spot for Olympics. As of now, Deepika Kumari is the only woman archer to have made the Olympic cut. Post the Olympic qualifiers, the World Cup Stage III is also scheduled to be held at the Charlety Stadium from June 21. "The embassy has informed us about the French government's decision of not granting short-term visas to India at the moment. We are looking at various other ways to ensure the team has the chance to travel and participate there. These are unprecedented times but we are hopeful a solution will be found," AAI secretary Pramod Chandurkar informed this daily.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Over 13k athletes, support staff to get insurance

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

THE Sports Authority of India (SAI) has decided to widen the medical and accident insurance cover of athletes, coaches and support staff from this year. More than 13,000 athletes and coaches will benefit from the initiative.

According to a statement issued by SAI, insurance cover of ₹5 lakh each will be provided to all national campers, probable national campers, Khelo India athletes and junior campers training at centres of excellence. It also includes ₹25 lakh cover for accident or death.

EXPLORING OPTIONS

ECB seeks time to look into prospect of curtailing Test series for IPL

VENKATA KRISHNA B @ Chennai

IPL was halted early this month

THE England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has sought time from the BCCI to check the possibility of converting the five-match Test series into a four-Test one. The Pataudi Trophy is scheduled to get underway on August 4 and run till September 14. The BCCI is currently looking for a window to squeeze in the remaining matches of the suspended IPL 2021, and has opened back-channel talks with the English board about reducing the number of Tests.

It is understood that the ECB has informed the BCCI that it will explore all options but has also informed that its hands are tied. In case, the ECB wants to scrap a Test match it has to have the host county's permission too as ticket sales have already begun for this high-profile series. Nottingham, Lord's, Leeds, The Oval, and Old Trafford are the venues for the series and each of these clubs have already paid the ECB for hosting the matches.

The ECB also has to factor in the broadcaster agreement as any series against India usually brings in more moolah. "It is not going to be easy for the ECB, but these are extraordinary times and some adjustment has to be made. At this stage, both the boards are only exploring the options and it is far from materialising," a BCCI official told this newspaper.

As part of the negotiations, it is learnt that the BCCI has also informed the ECB that it can compensate by playing few more additional matches in the limited-overs series planned for July 2022.

Apart from this, the BCCI is also understood to have checked with the ECB about the possibility of an early start to the Test series, but the inaugural edition of The Hundred has put an end to those talks. The ECB's flagship event is supposed to be held from July 22 to August 21 and with a few of the overseas players already not turning up, taking out the England players from the event will prove to be a damp squib.

This means the only option available to squeeze the IPL is if the ECB agrees to scrap a Test. That bilateral events are being curtailed to accommodate the IPL shows how the tournament has grown in its stature that it has become indispensable. While there are talks of staging the remaining part o the IPL in the UK, the BCCI is not ready to provide assurances to the ECB.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

LOCAL EXPRESS

Reputed hockey coach Katke no more

BENGALURU: Reputed hockey coach Manohar S Katke breathed his last due to a cardiac arrest during the early hours on Thursday. Katke, 66, also coached Karnataka state teams in the National Championships. He was conferred with "Lifetime Achievement" award by the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, Government of Karnataka in 2013 too.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU **WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**
Bhavani Basin Circle, Erode -11
Lumpsum Contract - Item wise rate (Two Cover System)
Re Tender Invitation No. NIT.1/2021-22/ BBC/ Erode/Dt. 20.05.2021

On behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu, the under signed has invited sealed tender for the following works **Upto 3.00 PM** on **30.06.2021** from the Registered Contractors of Water Resources Department / Public Works Department.

Sl.No.	Name of Work	EMD Rs.
1.	Restoration of the Sarcar Samakulam Tank to its original standards in Kurumbapalayam Village of Annur Taluk of Coimbatore Sub Urban of Coimbatore District. **Estimate value of work (including GST) Rs. 537.06 Lakhs**	Rs.2,79,000/-
2.	Rehabilitation and modernization of the O.V.C. Anicut and irrigation channel in Thekkampatti Village in mettupalayam Taluk of Coimbatore District. **Estimate value of work (including GST) Rs.596.94 Lakhs**	Rs.3,09,000/-

Sl.No.1 to 2: Period of contract: 9 Months, Class of contractor: I - Class (State Level) Up to Rs.75 Lakhs and above, Cost of Tender schedule (including GST) Rs.15000 + 1800. 1. Tender Schedule will be available in this office during working days & hours of the schedule sale period. 2. E.M.D and Tender Schedule to be remitted to the credit of: **Executive Engineer,WRD, Bhavanisagar Dam Division, Bhavanisagar payable at Sathyamangalam.** 3.Tender Schedule sale period: **28.05.2021 to 29.06.2021 Upto 5.45 PM.** 4. Last Date and time for the receipt of Tender: **30.06.2021 Up to 3.00 PM.** 5. Tender Opening Date: **3.30 PM on 30.06.2021.** 6. Contractors eligibility, Tender Schedule and other conditions can be downloaded from the following web site at free of cost Web site address : **http://www. tenders.tn.gov.in Any changes, modification or amendments will be intimated in the Web site www. tenders.tn.gov.in only**

DIPR/1582/Tender/2021 **Superintending Engineer, WRD, Bhavani Basin Circle, Erode -11**

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.05/2021-22
C-280

1.	Name of the work	:	1 No. of work
2.	Estimated cost	:	278.33 lakhs.
3.	Period of completion	:	11 (Eleven) Months
4.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	:	From 11.00 AM. of 24.05.2021 to 5.00 PM of 11.06.2021
5.	Last date / time for receipt of bids in the portal	:	5.00 PM of 11.06.2021
6.	Name and address of the Officer inviting Bid	:	Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from e-procurement portal in the Website **(http://tenderorissa.gov.in)**

Executive Engineer,
P.H. Division, Bhubaneswar
OIPR- 13021/11/0002/2122

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Periyar Vaigai Basin Circle, Madurai - 625 001
Tender Notice No.01/D4/C.250/2021/Date: 20.05.2021 (Second Call)

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu, tenders are invited and the sealed Tenders should be submitted in main sealed cover containing (1) Pre-qualification documents and E.M.D. in a separate inner sealed cover and (2) Price Tender Schedule duly filled in, in another inner sealed cover with the name of work duly superscribed on the covers will be received by the **Superintending Engineer, WRD., Periyar Vaigai Basin Circle, Madurai** for the following works from the eligible contractors registered under Class-I (State Level) in Public Works Department.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Work Value + GST 12%	E.M.D.
1.	Modernisation of the 18th Canal from LS 0 Km to 20 Km in Uthamapalayam Taluk of Theni District.	Rs.51,90,68,066/- Rs. 6,22,88,168/- **Rs.58,13,56,234/-**	**Rs.29,20,000/-**
2.	Modernisation of the 18th Canal Extension from LS 0 Km to 7 Km in Bodinayakkanur Taluk of Theni District.	Rs.17,28,57,600/- Rs. 2,07,42,912/- **Rs.19,36,00,512/-**	**Rs.9,80,000/-**
3.	Modernisation of the 18th Canal Extension from LS 7 Km to 14 Km in Bodinayakkanur Taluk of Theni District.	Rs.17,37,18,310/- Rs. 2,08,46,197/- **Rs.19,45,64,507/-**	**Rs.9,85,000/-**
4.	Construction of a Check Dam across the Vaigai River near Solaithevanpatti in Vallalnathi Village of Andipatti Taluk in Theni District.	Rs.3,37,40,000/- Rs. 40,48,800/- **Rs.3,77,88,800/-**	**Rs.2,00,000/-**

E.M.D. to be drawn in favour of: **The Executive Engineer, WRD., PWD., Manjalar Basin Division, Periyakulam.**
Cost of Tender Document + GST (Each Works) : **Rs.15000/- + Rs.2700/-**
Tender document can be downloaded freely from **www.tenders.tn.gov.in**
Date and Time of Tender document available : **28.05.2021 to 29.06.2021 upto 5.45 PM.** Submission of Tenders : **30.06.2021 upto 3.00 PM.** Date and time of Opening : **30.06.2021 at 3.30 PM.**
Place of Opening of Tenders : **O/o. The Superintending Engineer, WRD., Periyar Vaigai Basin Circle, Madurai-1.**
In the event of specified date for submission of tender is declared as a holiday, tender will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. Other details can be obtained from the above office. Also, if any further extension regarding tender date the same will be published in website only.

DIPR/1587/TENDER/2021 **Superintending Engineer, WRD., PWD., Periyar Vaigai Basin Circle, Madurai-1.**

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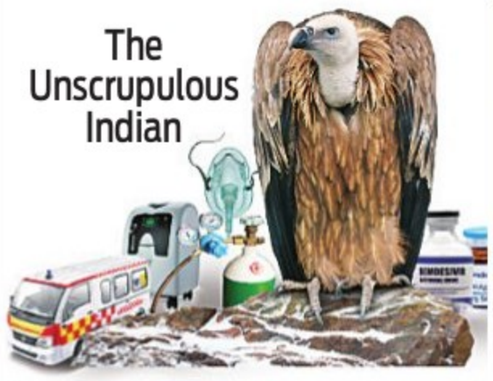
THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS



The Company Man

REVIEW
THE LAST HOUR

Magic Fails to Save the Day

The Raga of Longing

Delving into the Unknown

ALSO: Engage Astrogaze

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SADHGURU SPEAKS

A Child Needs No Instruction Manual

VOICES
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Gautam Chintamani

Revisiting the Animal Farm

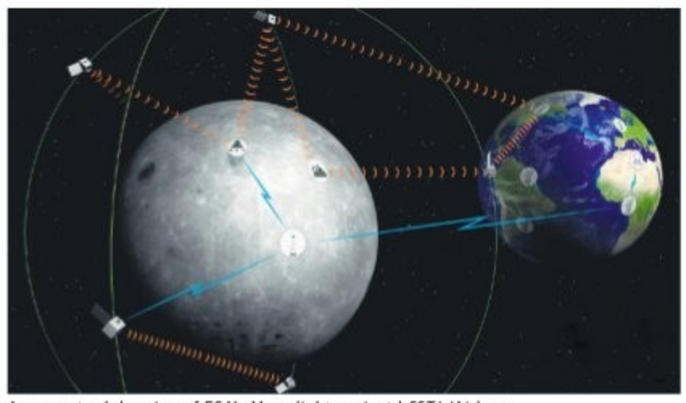
Bowled Out in Bombay

The Art of Healing

Education. Goals. And game changing decisions. edexo Every Monday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Progress against the coronavirus pandemic remains "fragile" and international travel should be avoided, WHO's European director Hans Kluge warned Thursday, while stressing that authorised vaccines work against variants of concern. The vaccine authorised by the WHO are effective against the variant first detected in India, Kluge said.

Europe pitches sat-nav network to aid Moon trips



A conceptual drawing of ESA's Moonlight project | SSTL/Airbus

SPACE

BERLIN: The European Space Agency presented a vision Thursday to put satellites in orbit around the moon that would facilitate future missions to Earth's closest neighbor.

The plan, dubbed "Moonlight," would see ESA offer communications and navigation services to any country that wants to carry out lunar exploration missions.

By relying services provided from lunar orbit, space agencies would be able to design their moon landers without the need for cumbersome communications and navigation devices on board. This would free up space to carry other cargo, making each launch more cost-effective, said Paul Verhoef, ESA's director of navigation.

The project builds on one of the agency's strengths: launching satellites to provide services to third parties. ESA has a fleet of observation satellites in orbit around Earth that supply weather, climate and other data to public and commercial companies.

It also has a constellation of navigation satellites, known as Galileo, that provide highly accurate global positioning data to rival the U.S.-based GPS system.

But it also highlights the European agency's weakness: unlike the US, China or India, ESA lacks any ambitious moon exploration programs of its own. Instead, ESA is hoping to partner with NASA to build a "lunar gateway" that would be a staging post for future moon missions.

The proposal outlined by ESA on Thursday will see two international consortiums devise ways for building a reliable and dedicated lunar communications and navigation service.

The first such satellite, called "Lunar Pathfinder," will be operational in 2024.

David Parker, ESA's director of human and robotic exploration, said the agency's member states would be given a formal proposal for a constellation next year.

EXFILE • ENVIRONMENT

GREEN ECONOMIC SHIFT YET TO MATERIALISE IN COVID ERA

When pandemics ravaged the world in the past, humanity changed tack and reimagined the future. Many hoped last year that the coronavirus shock to the global economy would be a reset button for a shift to a more eco-friendly model. A new report says categorically that such a shift has not yet occurred

It's costly to spend

To spend, a nation needs to borrow, but interest rates vary. Rich nations are enjoying close to **0%** cost for extra debt, whereas poor ones such as India have a **6%** rate due to lower credit ratings

Data from Global Recovery Observatory shows share of green investments in $14.6 tn total spending

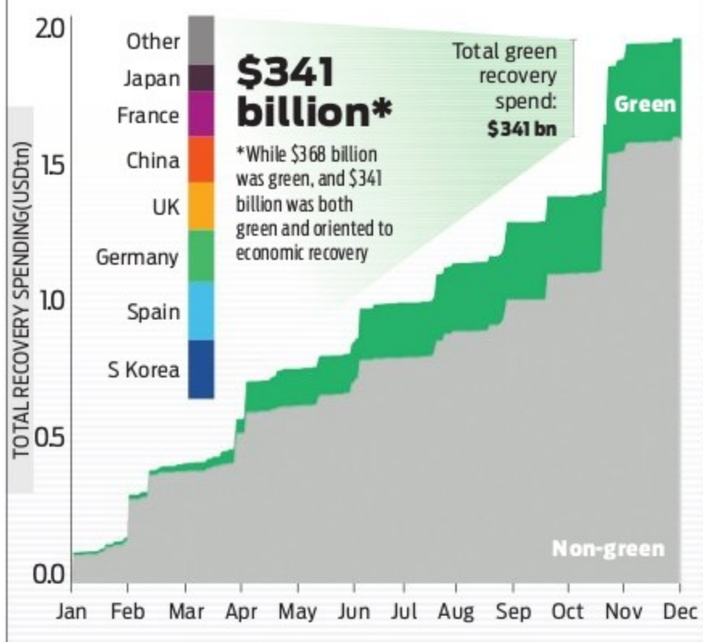
$368 billion Only **2.5%** of the total $14.6 tn spending was for green initiatives

$1.19 trillion A bare **13%** of the spending was for long-term recovery

$14.6 trillion **Total** Covid-related spending announced by 50 largest economies in 2020

Green slice of the pie

Money spent on economic recovery during the pandemic, in 2020



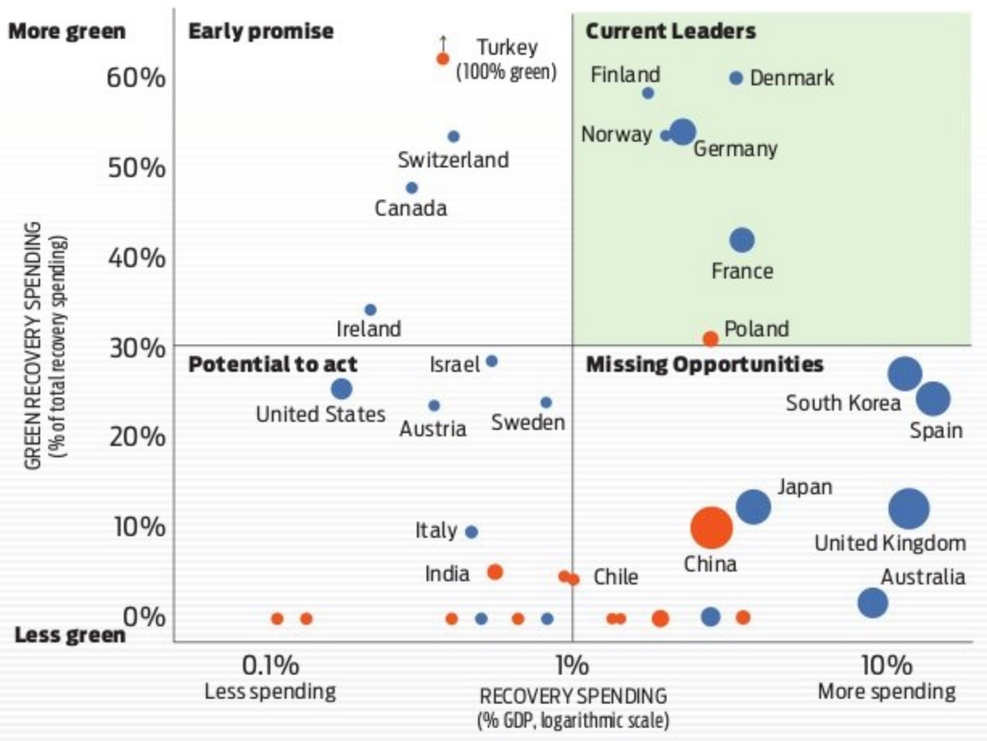
WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Political leaders may spout platitudes about the need for eco-friendly policies, but their actions often do not match their words. The prime indicator of the political will to address climate change is the amount of money allocated for green projects

Source: "Are we building back better?", Global Recovery Observatory, Oxford University and UNEP

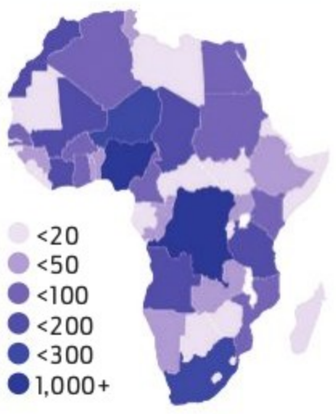
GDP comparisons

Money spent on economic recovery that goes towards green initiatives, with the % figure indicating the share of total recovery spending on the y-axis. This is compared with recovery spending as % of GDP in the x-axis



Invasive alien species cost Africa 1.5x its annual GDP

COST OF INVASIVE SPECIES TO CROP & LIVESTOCK, IN $ BILLIONS



"Towards estimating the economic cost of invasive alien species to African crop and livestock production", Eschen, R, Beale, T, Bonnin, JM et al, *CABI Agriculture and Bioscience*, May 2021

RESEARCH

JOHANNESBURG: Invasive species introduced by human activity are costing African agriculture some $3.66 trillion every year -- about 1.5 times the combined gross domestic product of all African countries -- research showed Thursday.

Non-native species of weed, insect or worm can have catastrophic effects on farming, with just a single bug capable of reducing yields of staple crops across the continent.

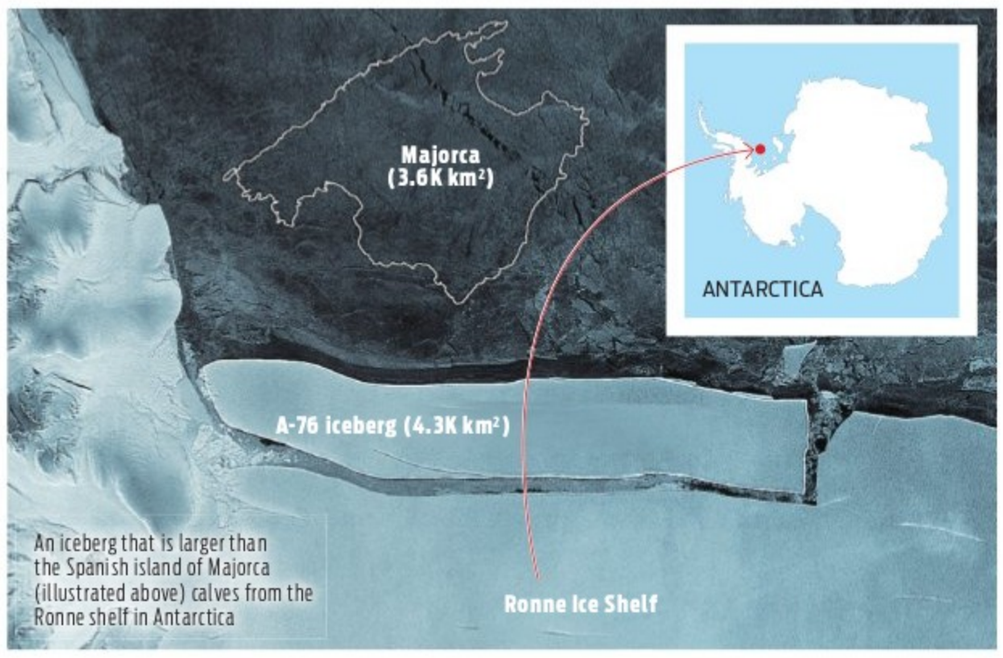
Now researchers based in Ghana, Kenya, Britain and Switzerland have sought to estimate the annual economic hit caused by invasive species to African agriculture.

The team studied open source and peer-reviewed literature on species that were not native to the continent but had caused crop losses to assess the economic impact on yield, management and the cost of research. Next, they surveyed more than 1,000 stakeholders -- including farmers, researchers and government officials -- about the financial implications of invasive species.

Participants were asked to estimate crop losses caused by invasive alien species as well as the costs incurred.

Thee team found that the average cost of invasive alien species to the agricultural sector in Africa's 54 countries was $74.3 billion each year.

But there was substantial variation among countries. The worst affected nations were found to be Nigeria -- which loses around $1 trillion annually due to invasive species -- and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which loses $317 billion each year.



An iceberg that is larger than the Spanish island of Majorca (illustrated above) calves from the Ronne shelf in Antarctica

World's largest iceberg forms in Antarctica

ENVIRONMENT

PARIS: A huge ice block has broken off from western Antarctica into the Weddell Sea, becoming the largest iceberg in the world and earning the name A-76.

It is the latest in a series of large ice blocks to dislodge in a region acutely vulnerable to climate change, although scientists said in this case it appeared to be part of a natural polar cycle.

Slightly larger than the Spanish island of Majorca, A-76 had been monitored by scientists since May 13 when it began to separate from the Ronne Ice Shelf, according to the US National Ice Center.

The iceberg, measuring around 170 km long and 25 km wide, is now floating in the Weddell Sea. It joins previous world's largest title holder A-23A -- about 3,880 sq km in size -- which has remained in the same area since 1986.

A-76 was originally spotted by the British Antarctic Survey and the calving -- the term used when an iceberg breaks off -- was confirmed using images from the Copernicus satellite.

It may be a giant, but A-76 is by no means the largest iceberg in recent years. The monstrous A-68 iceberg calved in 2017 from the Larsen ice shelf, which has warmed faster than any other part of Earth's southernmost continent.

FACT OF THE MATTER

Colonists drove mass extinction

CONSERVATION

The arrival of European colonists led to a mass extinction of between 50 to 70 percent of the snake and lizard populations of the Guadeloupe Islands, according to a large fossil study in *Science Advances*. This highlights human impacts on animals that are often seen as less "charismatic" and therefore neglected in scientific study, its authors wrote. The islands could have been first inhabited by humans as far back as 5,000 years ago. Columbus arrived in Guadeloupe in 1493, while French colonization started in 1635 and led to the disappearance of Guadeloupe's indigenous people within 20 years. Researchers looked at remains of 16 taxa.

Quick Arctic warming

CLIMATE

The Arctic has warmed three times more quickly than the planet as a whole, and faster than previously thought, a report warned on Thursday. Arctic sea ice looks set to be an early victims of rising temperatures, with each fraction of a degree making a big difference: the chance of it disappearing entirely in summer is 10 times greater if Earth warms by 2°C above pre-industrial levels compared to 1.5°C, the goal set by the Paris Accord. The alarming finding comes from the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme in a report timed to coincide with a ministerial meeting this week of the Arctic Council in Reykjavik.

CONSERVATIONIST

Legendary researcher Jane Goodall wins Templeton Prize

A monkey peers into the front-end of a camera operated by Jane Goodall (R) and her husband Hugo van lawick in 1974 | AP

PRIMATOLOGY

JANE GOODALL, the conservationist renowned for her expertise on chimpanzees and her advocacy of environmental causes, was named as this year's winner of the prestigious Templeton Prize, honouring individuals whose life's work embodies a fusion of science and spirituality.

Goodall, born in London in 1934, traveled to Kenya in 1957 and met the famed anthropologist and paleontologist Louis Leakey. In 1960, at his invitation, she began her groundbreaking study of chimpanzees in what is now Tanzania.

Her field research revolutionized the field of primatology, helping transform how scientists and the public perceive the emotional and social complexity of animals. She was the first to observe that chimpanzees engage in activities previously believed to be exclusive to humans, such as creating tools, and she demonstrated that they have individual personalities.

"Her discoveries have profoundly altered the world's view of animal intelligence and enriched our understanding of humanity in a way that is both humbling and exalting," said Heather Templeton Dill, president of the John Templeton Foundation, which helps administers the prize.

Established in 1972 by the late philanthropist Sir John Templeton, the Templeton Prize is one of the world's largest individual awards — currently valued at 1.1 million pounds. Past winners include Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa.

Last year's honoree was Dr. Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health in the US and leader of the Human Genome Project.

Goodall, in an interview with The AP ahead of the award's announcement, recalled how her work with the chimpanzees led to a broader appreciation for nature as she spent hours by herself in the forest.

"Out there in nature by myself, when you're alone, you can become part of nature and your humanity doesn't get in the way," she said. "It's almost like an out-of-body experience when suddenly you hear different sounds and you smell different smells and you're actually part of this amazing tapestry of life."

"Every time a little species vanishes, it may not seem important," she added. "But the thread is pulled from that tapestry and the picture gets weaker as more threads are pulled, until that tapestry, once so beautiful, is hanging in tatters."